BAMBOO COMICS

なごみクラブ。

Nagomi Club

遠藤淑子

Toshiko Endo

3

TAKESHOBO

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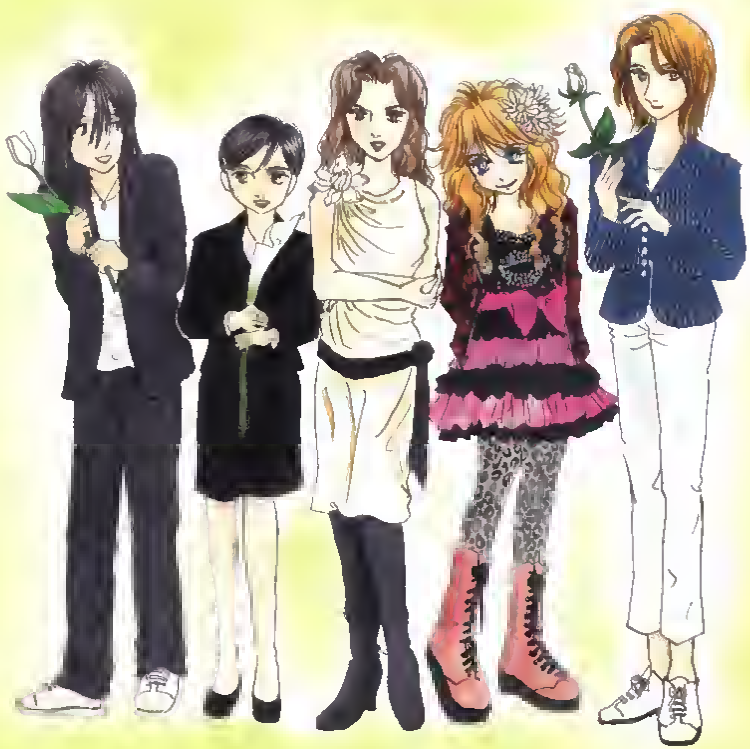
Yoshiko Endo



TAKESHOBO

NAGOMI CLUB

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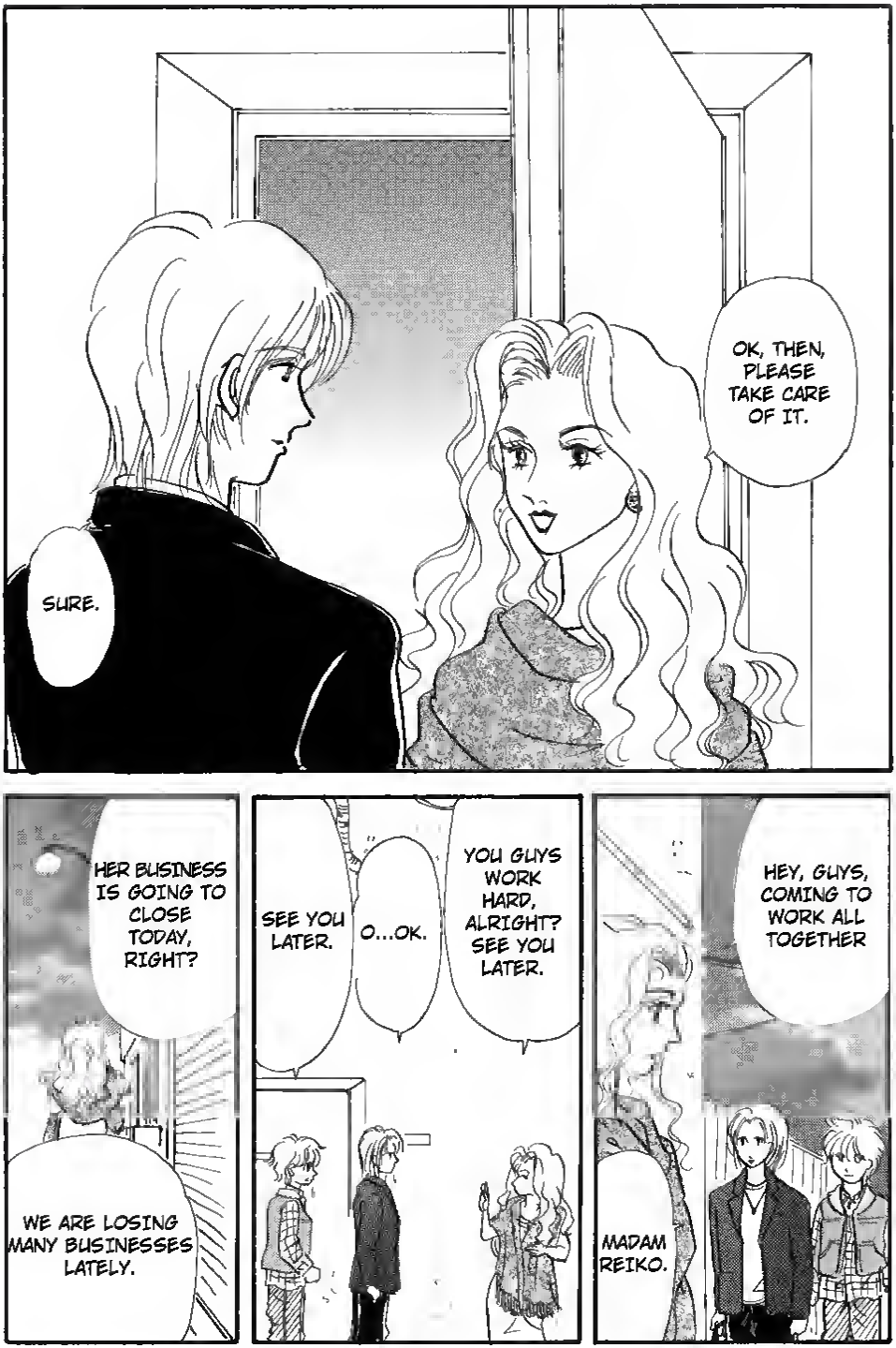
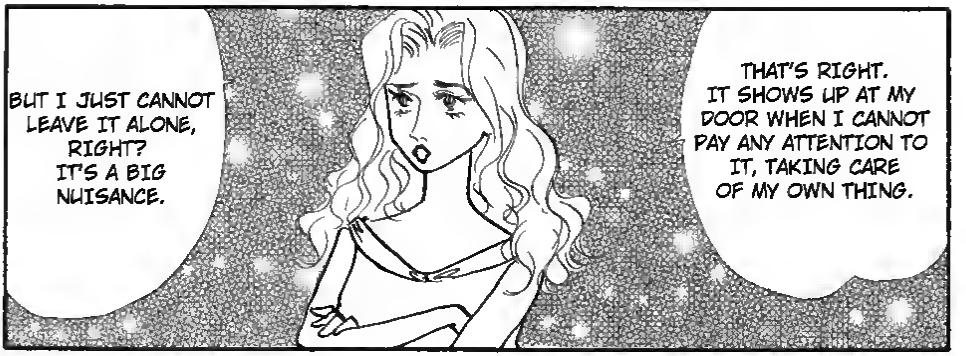
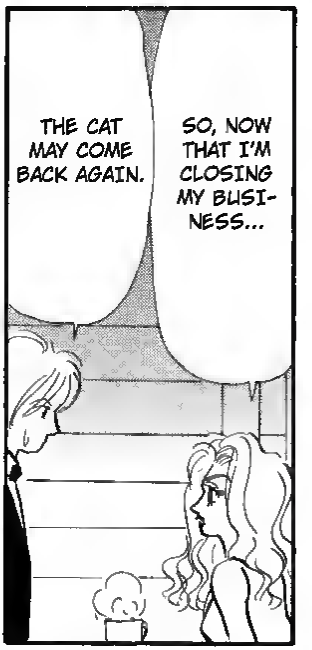

SURE.
OK, THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT.
HER BUSINESS IS GOING TO CLOSE TODAY, RIGHT?
WE ARE LOSING MANY BUSINESSES LATELY.
SEE YOU LATER.
O...OK.
YOU GUYS WORK HARD, ALRIGHT? SEE YOU LATER.
HEY, GUYS, COMING TO WORK ALL TOGETHER
MADAM REIKO.

GOOD MORNING.
WE JUST RAN INTO MADAM REIKO.
DID SHE COME BY TO SAY GOODBYE?
YES, FOR THAT, TOO.
SHE ALSO ASKED ME TO LOOK FOR A CAT.
A CAT?
WHOSE?
IT'S AN ALLY CAT.
WHEN WAS IT? OH, YEAH, THAT WAS WHEN I WAS IN FIGHT WITH MY FIRST EX ABOUT HIS ADULTERY.
THE CAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT. SO, I SAVED THE CAT.
AS SOON AS IT GOT BETTER, IT JUST DISAPPEARED ON ME.
THEN, ABOUT THREE YEARS AFTER THAT, WHEN I LOST A FORTUNE BECAUSE I BOUGHT STOCKS RECOMMENDED BY MY CLIENT. THE CAT CAME TO ME AGAIN AND IT WAS INJURED...
BUT, AGAIN, AS SOON AS IT GOT WELL, IT JUST VANISHED.
THEN AFTER THAT, WHEN MY SECOND HUSBAND DISAPPEARED ON ME, LEAVING ME DEBTS. THE SAME CAT SHOWED UP AGAIN...
SO, THE CAT KEPT ON COMING BACK WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU?


BUT I JUST CANNOT LEAVE IT ALONE, RIGHT? IT'S A BIG NUISANCE.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT SHOWS UP AT MY DOOR WHEN I CANNOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO IT, TAKING CARE OF MY OWN THING.

IF YOU CALL ME, I'LL COME GET IT.
THANKS A LOT.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

OK. WHEN I SEE THE CAT, I WILL CAPTURE IT FOR YOU.
YEAH. BUT, EVEN IF IT COMES BACK AGAIN, I WON'T BE AROUND, RIGHT?


THE CAT MAY COME BACK AGAIN.
SO, NOW THAT I'M CLOSING MY BUSINESS...

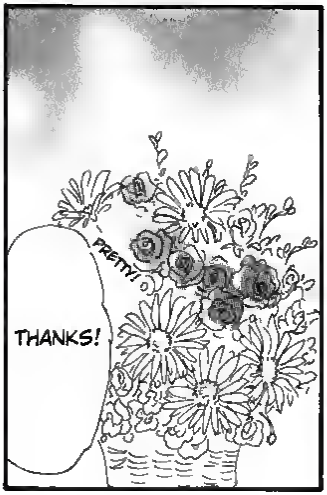
IT'S A BLACK CAT WITH A JAGGED RIGHT EAR.
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
IF YOU SEE THE CAT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

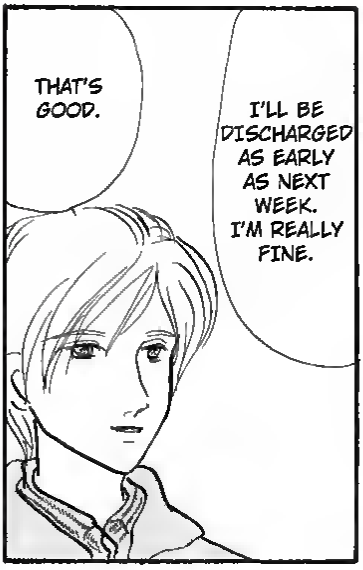
THE REASON WHY SHE HAD TO CALL IT QUITS IS BECAUSE SOME OF HER PATRONS DIDN'T PAY THEIR BILLS, RIGHT?
SHE'S SOFT-HEARTED.
WHEN SHE HAS TO SHUT DOWN HER OWN BUSINESS, SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT A CAT?
IS THIS ONE OK?
WELL, OUR MANAGER DOESN'T LOOK RELIABLE.
...
SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T DEMAND THE MONEY, WHEN THEY FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY.
LATELY, ANY BUSINESS IS ON THE EDGE.
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW! SHE WAS ALWAYS JOLLY, SO I HAD NO CLUE SHE WAS HAVING SUCH A PROBLEM.

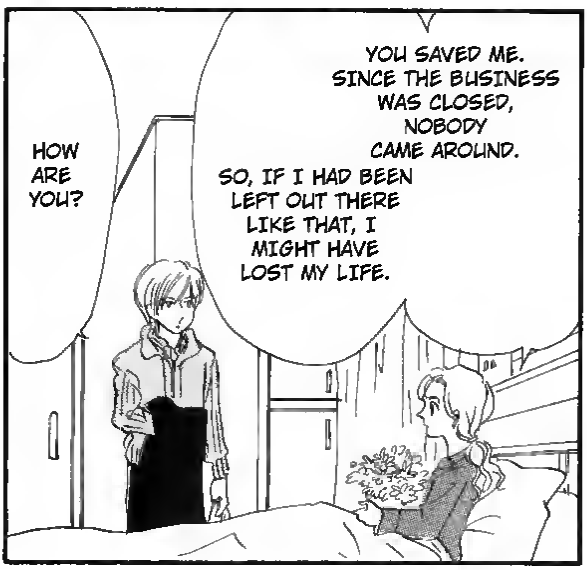
OH, LOOK. THERE IS
カリカリカリ
OH, YEAH, GOTTA GO SEE IF THE CAT IS AROUND.
UNH..
UNH..
....?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HURT.
YOU REALLY SHOW UP WHEN THERE'S SOME KIND OF EVENT.
COME HERE

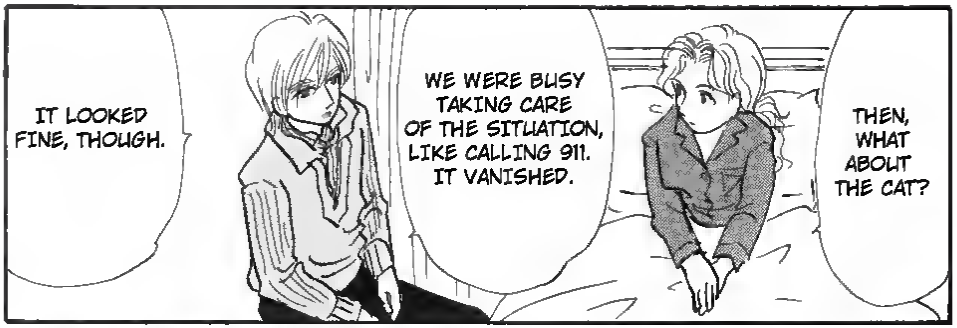
犬田西ノ内病院

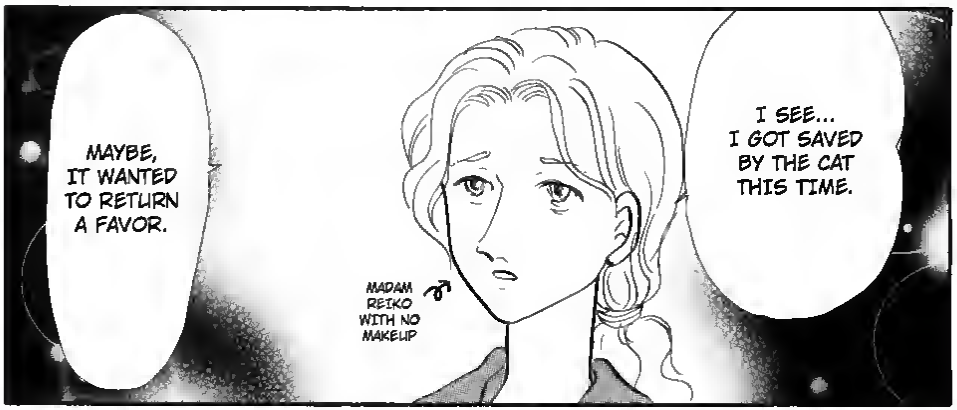

PRETTY!
THANKS!

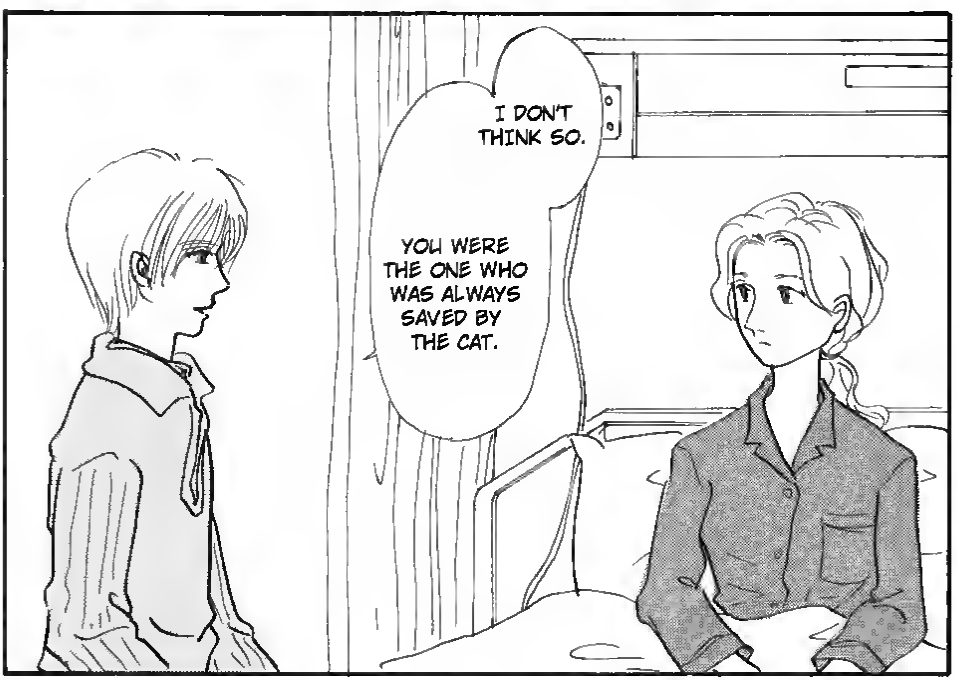
REIKO SAN!!

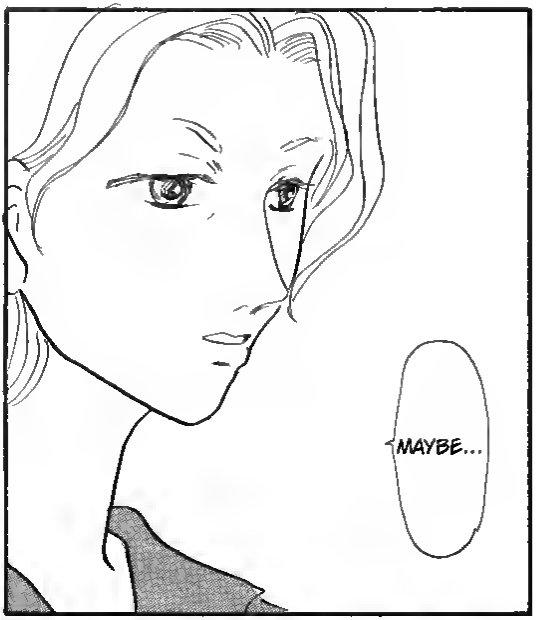

THAT'S GOOD.
I'LL BE DISCHARGED AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. I'M REALLY FINE.


HOW ARE YOU?
YOU SAVED ME. SINCE THE BUSINESS WAS CLOSED, NOBODY CAME AROUND.
SO, IF I HAD BEEN LEFT OUT THERE LIKE THAT, I MIGHT HAVE LOST MY LIFE.

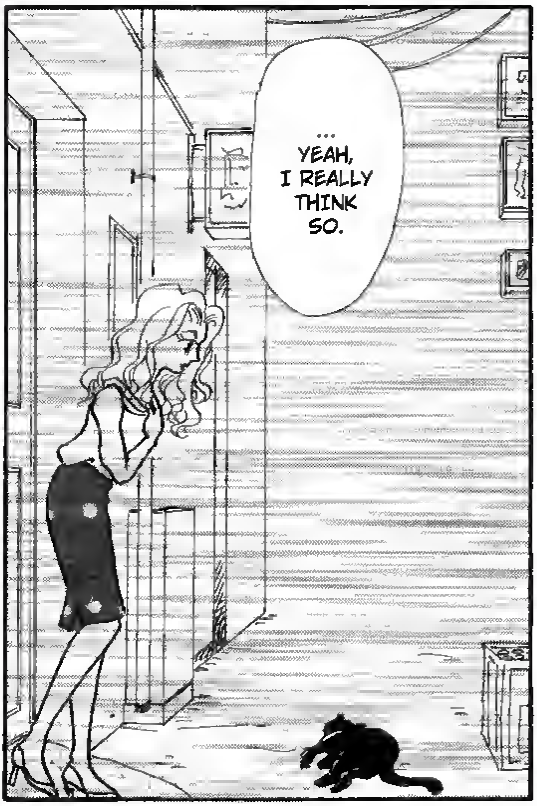

IT LOOKED FINE, THOUGH.
WE WERE BUSY TAKING CARE OF THE SITUATION, LIKE CALLING 911. IT VANISHED.
THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE CAT?


MAYBE, IT WANTED TO RETURN A FAVOR.
MADAM REIKO WITH NO MAKEUP
I SEE... I GOT SAVED BY THE CAT THIS TIME.


I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS SAVED BY THE CAT.


MAYBE...

THANKS.

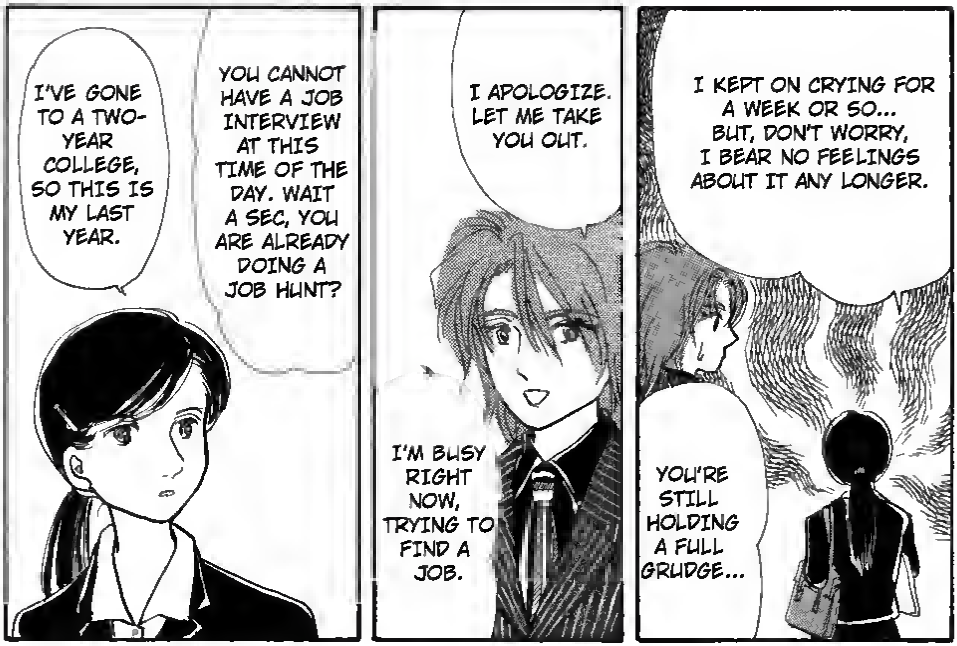

...
YEAH,
I REALLY
THINK
SO.

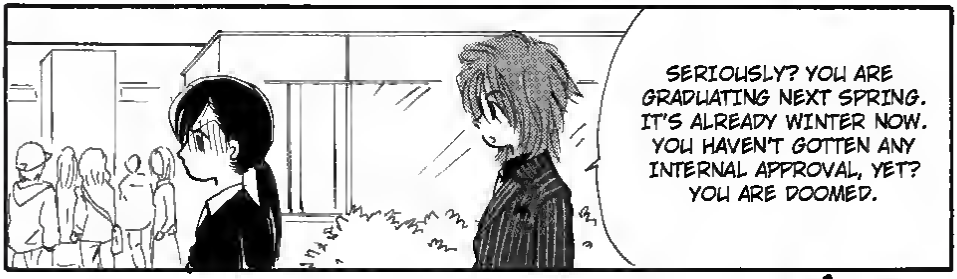
Nagomi Club no 23

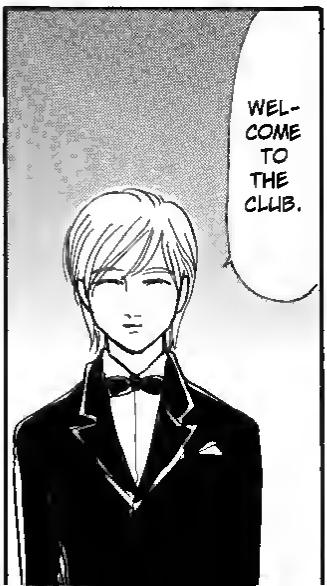
ひらっ
EXCUSE ME, MISS, YOU DROPPED YOUR ENVELOPE.
AH... MS. KAWASHIMA... ...MIHO KAWASHIMA.

HUH?
YUYA KANEKO!!
EXCU-SE ME...
はっ
AH... WELL...
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW MY NAME...
AT JUNIOR HIGH? I CANNOT REMEMBER YOUR NAME...
WE MET AT JUNIOR HIGH. BUT WE WERE NOT CLASS-MATES.
NOT THAT IMPORTANT, SO NEVER MIND.
WAIT! NOW, IT BOTHERS ME...

YOU'RE UGLY!
YEAH?
HEY, PRESI-DENT!
1-A
GA HA HA
UGLY UGLY
GA HA HA
WE MADE FUN OF A STUDIOUS STUDENT LIKE YOURSELF. WE DIDN'T REALLY MEAN THAT YOU WERE UGLY.
YOU KNOW... JUNIOR HIGH KIDS ARE STUPID. I WAS AMONG THOSE WHO WERE THE STUPIDEST IN THE BUNCH.
YOU CALLED ME SCHOOL COUNCIL, OR UGLY. SO, I DON'T THINK YOU REMEMBER MY NAME, AT ALL.

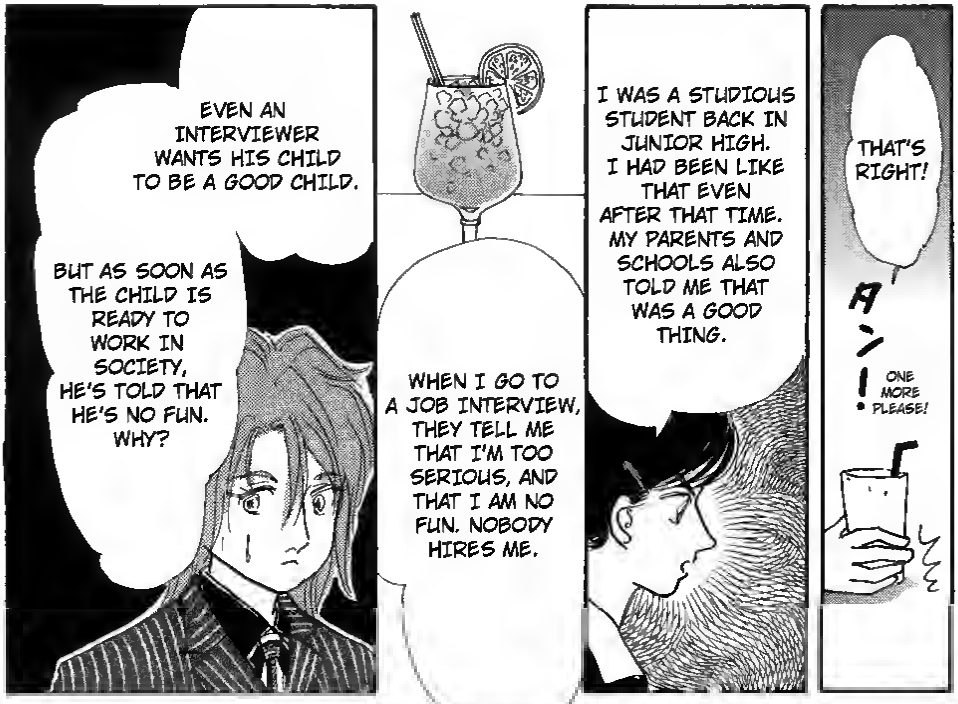

I'VE GONE TO A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE, SO THIS IS MY LAST YEAR.
YOU CANNOT HAVE A JOB INTERVIEW AT THIS TIME OF THE DAY. WAIT A SEC, YOU ARE ALREADY DOING A JOB HUNT?
I APOLOGIZE. LET ME TAKE YOU OUT.
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW, TRYING TO FIND A JOB.
I KEPT ON CRYING FOR A WEEK OR SO... BUT, DON'T WORRY, I BEAR NO FEELINGS ABOUT IT ANY LONGER.
YOU'RE STILL HOLDING A FULL GRUDGE...


SERIOUSLY? YOU ARE GRADUATING NEXT SPRING. IT'S ALREADY WINTER NOW. YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY INTERNAL APPROVAL, YET? YOU ARE DOOMED.


WEL-COME TO THE CLUB.

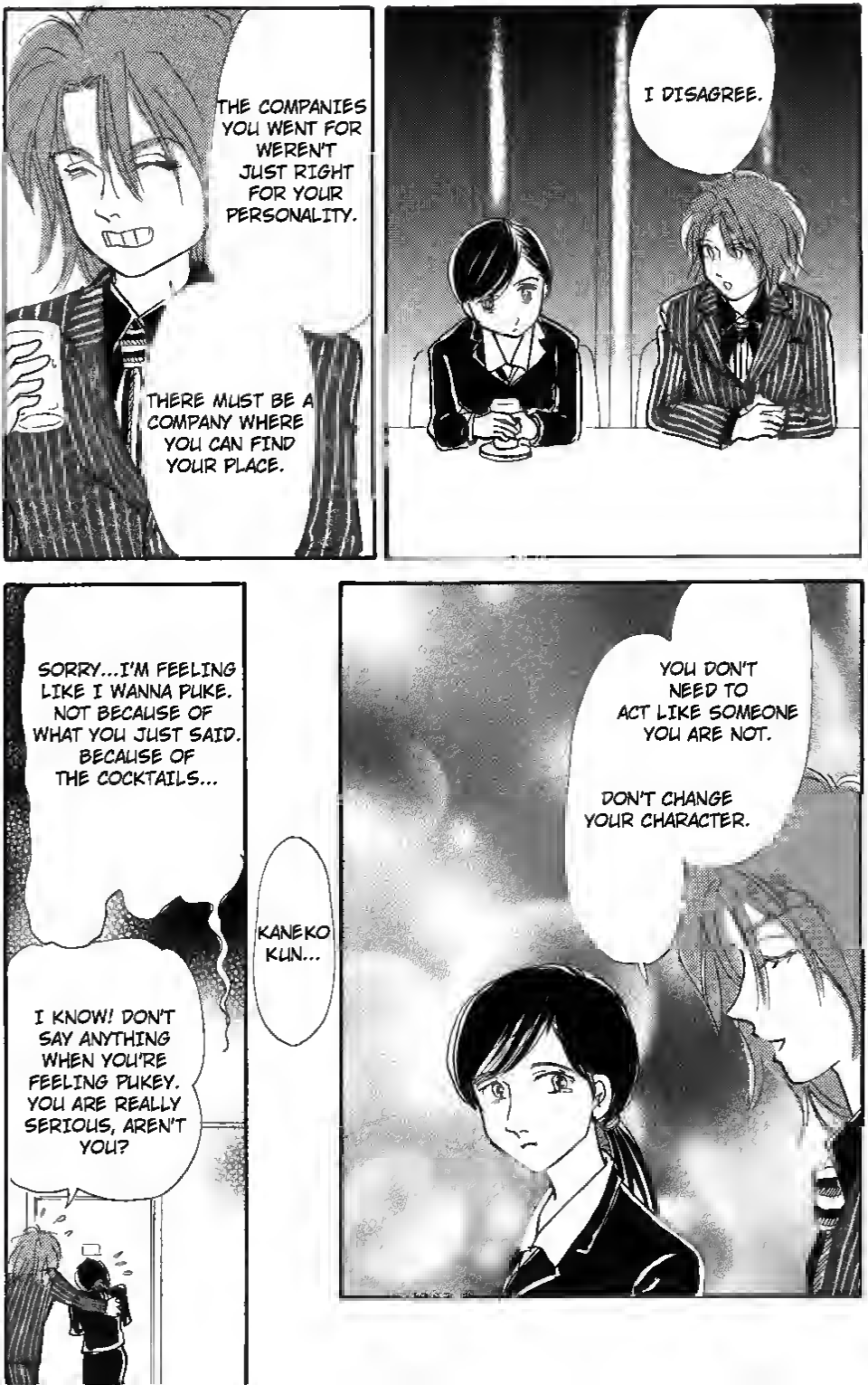
SHOOT! I'M SORRY. I WAS STUPID BACK THEN, AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED!
C'MON. LET'S DRINK! DRINK AND FORGET ALL! LET ME TREAT YOU!!

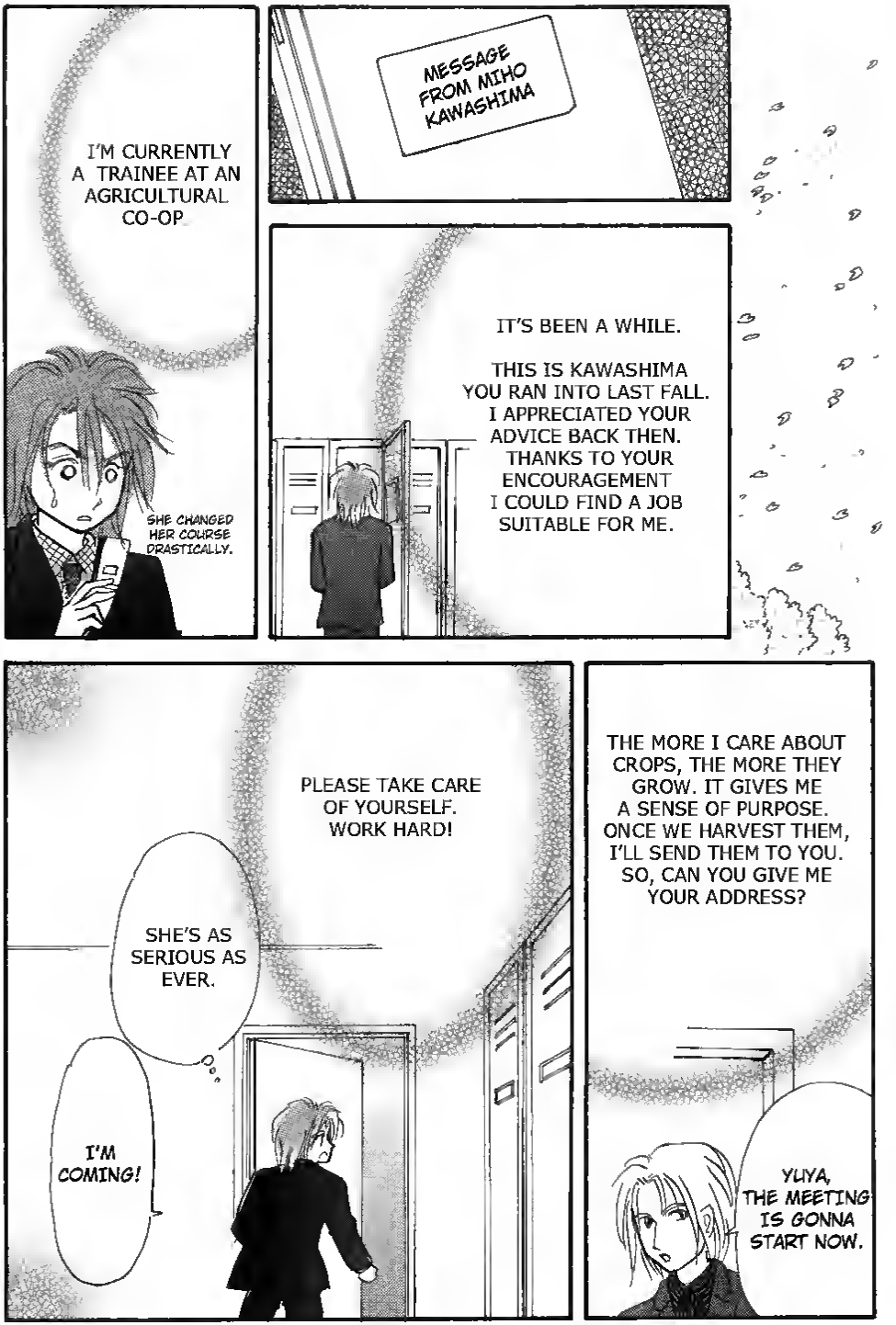
HOST CLUB?
KANEKO-KUN, YOU'RE WORKING AS A HOST?
WELL...SHE'S NOT A MEMBER, BUT I KNOW HER. IS IT OK?
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
SURE, OF COURSE. IF SHE'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW.
AH.. WELL...
YOU ARE RUDE YOURSELF, AREN'T YA?
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL COCKTAIL. THANKS.
NOT REA-LLY. BUT, MAY BE A HOODLUM.
DID YOU THINK I WAS PART OF GANG OR I WAS IN JAIL?
YEAH. UN-EXPECTED?
YOU ARE A VERY EARNEST PERSON, SO, YOU WILL FIND A JOB IN NO TIME.
NEVER MIND. DRINK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT TONIGHT. AND GO BACK OUT AGAIN TOMORROW.


EVEN AN INTERVIEWER WANTS HIS CHILD TO BE A GOOD CHILD.
BUT AS SOON AS THE CHILD IS READY TO WORK IN SOCIETY, HE'S TOLD THAT HE'S NO FUN. WHY?
WHEN I GO TO A JOB INTERVIEW, THEY TELL ME THAT I'M TOO SERIOUS, AND THAT I AM NO FUN. NOBODY HIRES ME.
I WAS A STUDIOUS STUDENT BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH. I HAD BEEN LIKE THAT EVEN AFTER THAT TIME. MY PARENTS AND SCHOOLS ALSO TOLD ME THAT WAS A GOOD THING.
THAT'S RIGHT!
ONE MORE PLEASE!

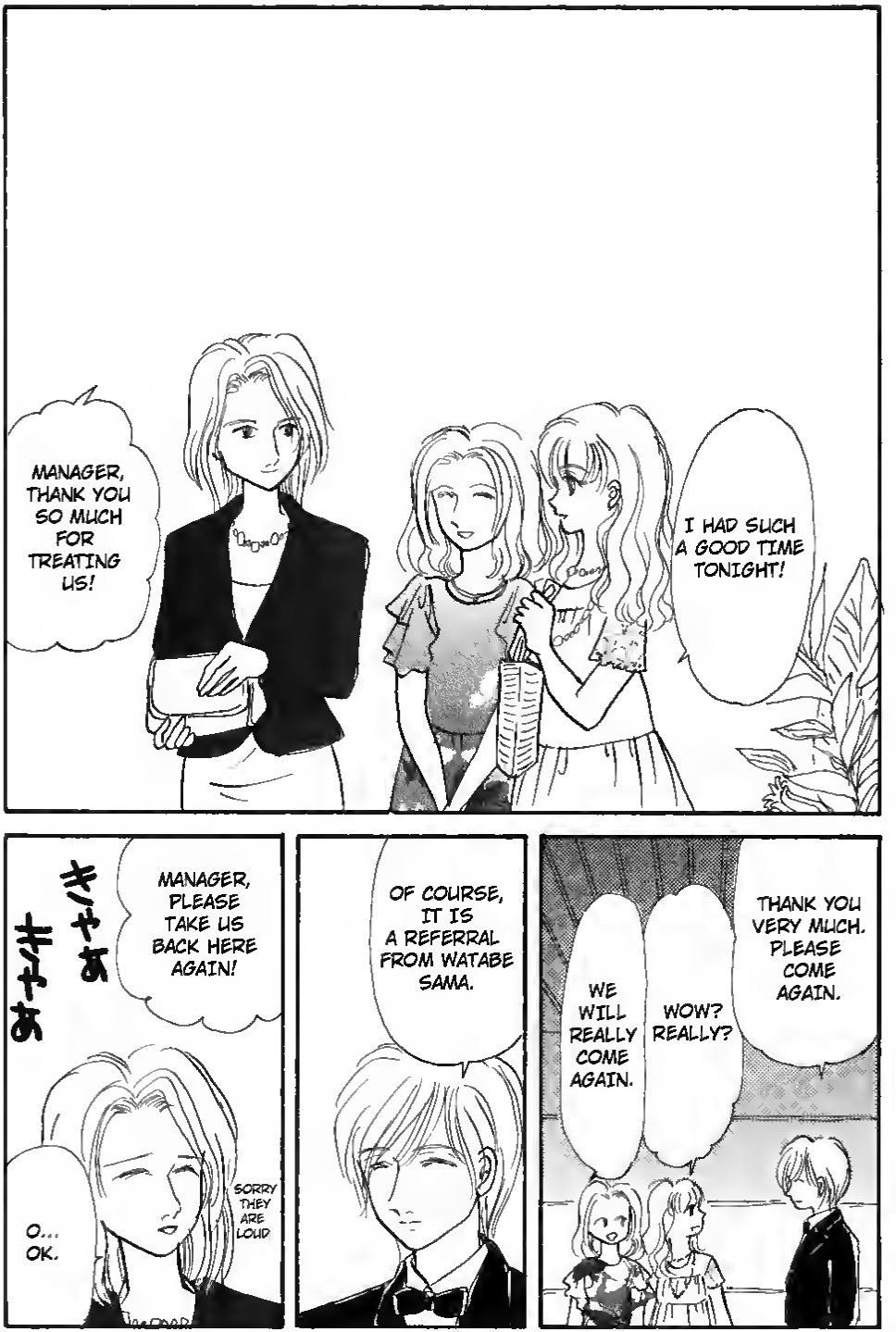
KAWASHIMA, YOU CANNOT DRINK MUCH, CAN YOU?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEY SHOULD TELL A CHILD NOT TO BE GOOD OR NOT TO STUDY, AT ALL. NOW THEY TURN THEIR BACKS AND TELL THE CHILD THE OPPOSITE. IT'S TOO LATE NOW! ISN'T IT AWFUL?

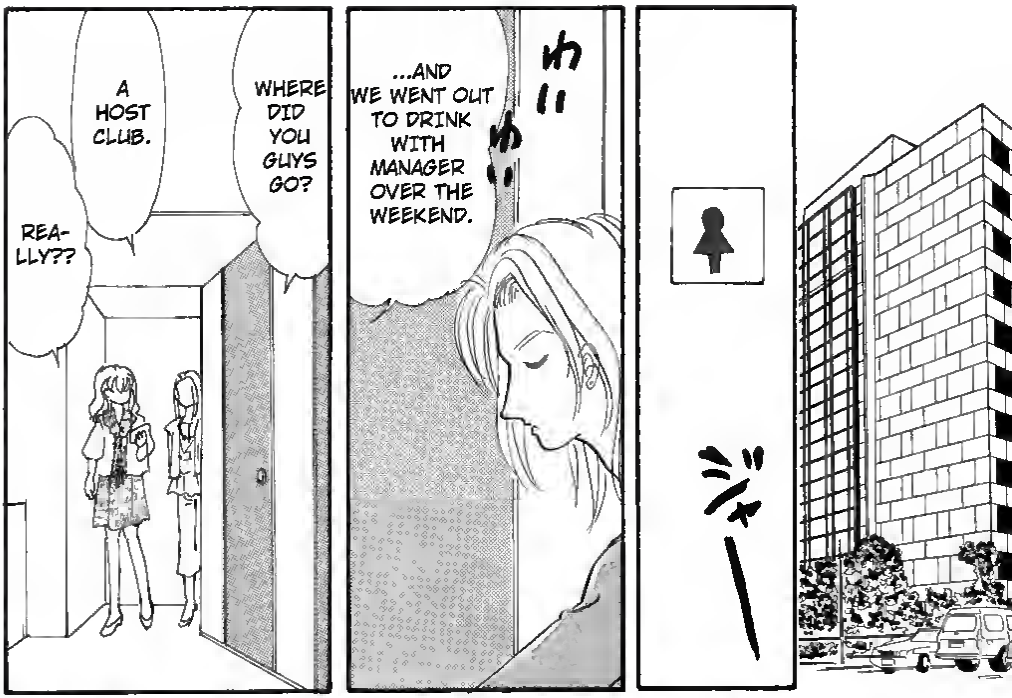
I BELIEVED THAT WORKING HARD WOULD PAY OFF ONE DAY. BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I KNOW THAT WE ALL HAVE TO BE CLEAVER ONCE WE GO OUT THERE. BUT I CANNOT ACT LIKE THAT. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO BE GOOD AND STUDIOUS. I HAVE BEEN TRYING SO HARD.


THE COMPANIES YOU WENT FOR WEREN'T JUST RIGHT FOR YOUR PERSONALITY.
THERE MUST BE A COMPANY WHERE YOU CAN FIND YOUR PLACE.
I DISAGREE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO ACT LIKE SOMEONE YOU ARE NOT.
DON'T CHANGE YOUR CHARACTER.
KANEKO KUN...
SORRY...I'M FEELING LIKE I WANNA PUKE. NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU JUST SAID. BECAUSE OF THE COCKTAILS...
I KNOW! DON'T SAY ANYTHING WHEN YOU'RE FEELING PUKEY. YOU ARE REALLY SERIOUS, AREN'T YOU?


I'M CURRENTLY A TRAINEE AT AN AGRICULTURAL CO-OP.
SHE CHANGED HER COURSE DRASTICALLY.
MESSAGE FROM MIHO KAWASHIMA
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
THIS IS KAWASHIMA YOU RAN INTO LAST FALL. I APPRECIATED YOUR ADVICE BACK THEN. THANKS TO YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT I COULD FIND A JOB SUITABLE FOR ME.
THE MORE I CARE ABOUT CROPS, THE MORE THEY GROW. IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF PURPOSE. ONCE WE HARVEST THEM, I'LL SEND THEM TO YOU. SO, CAN YOU GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS?
YUYA, THE MEETING IS GONNA START NOW.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. WORK HARD!
SHE'S AS SERIOUS AS EVER.
I'M COMING!

Nagomi Club no.24


MANAGER, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TREATING US!
I HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME TONIGHT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. PLEASE COME AGAIN.
WOW? REALLY?
WE WILL REALLY COME AGAIN.
OF COURSE, IT IS A REFERRAL FROM WATABE SAMA.
MANAGER, PLEASE TAKE US BACK HERE AGAIN!
O... OK.
SORRY THEY ARE LOUD


WHERE DID YOU GUYS GO?
A HOST CLUB.
REA-LLY??
...AND WE WENT OUT TO DRINK WITH MANAGER OVER THE WEEKEND.
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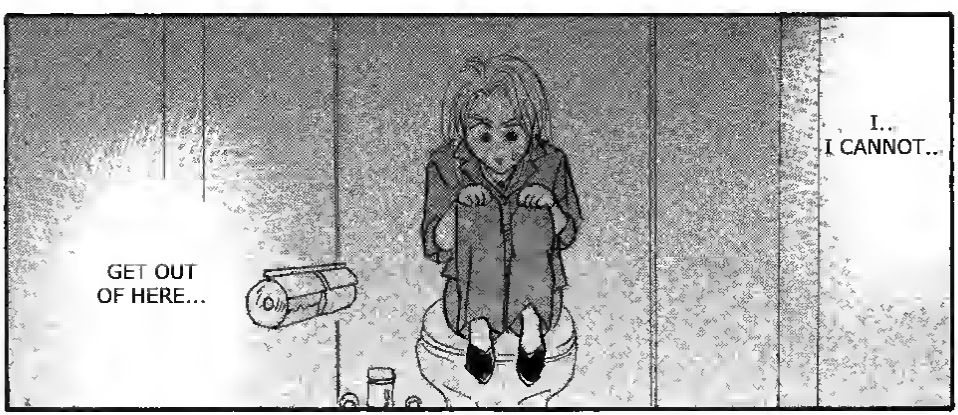
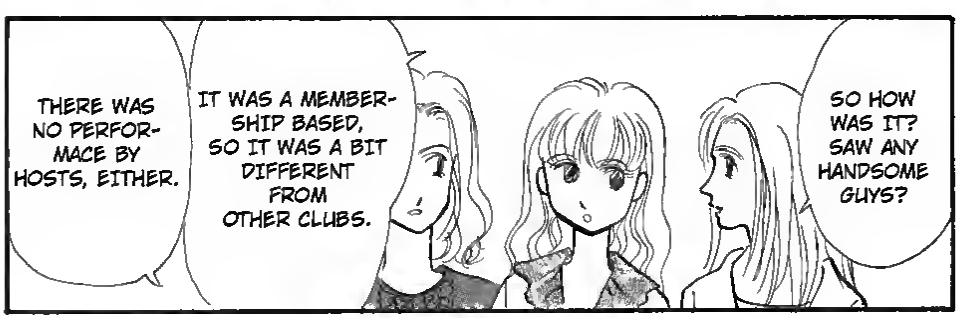
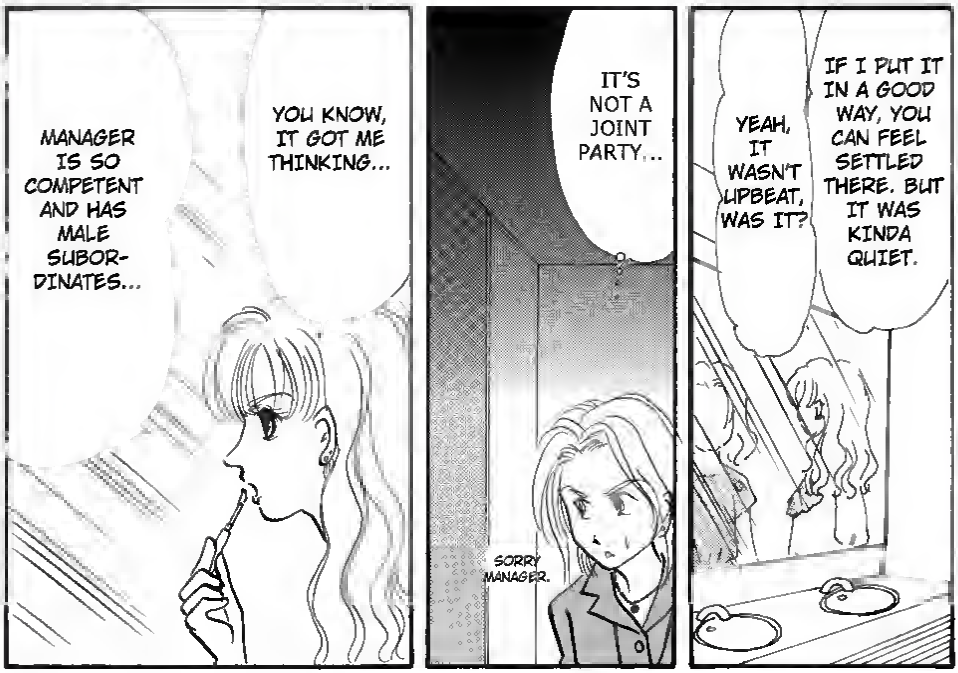
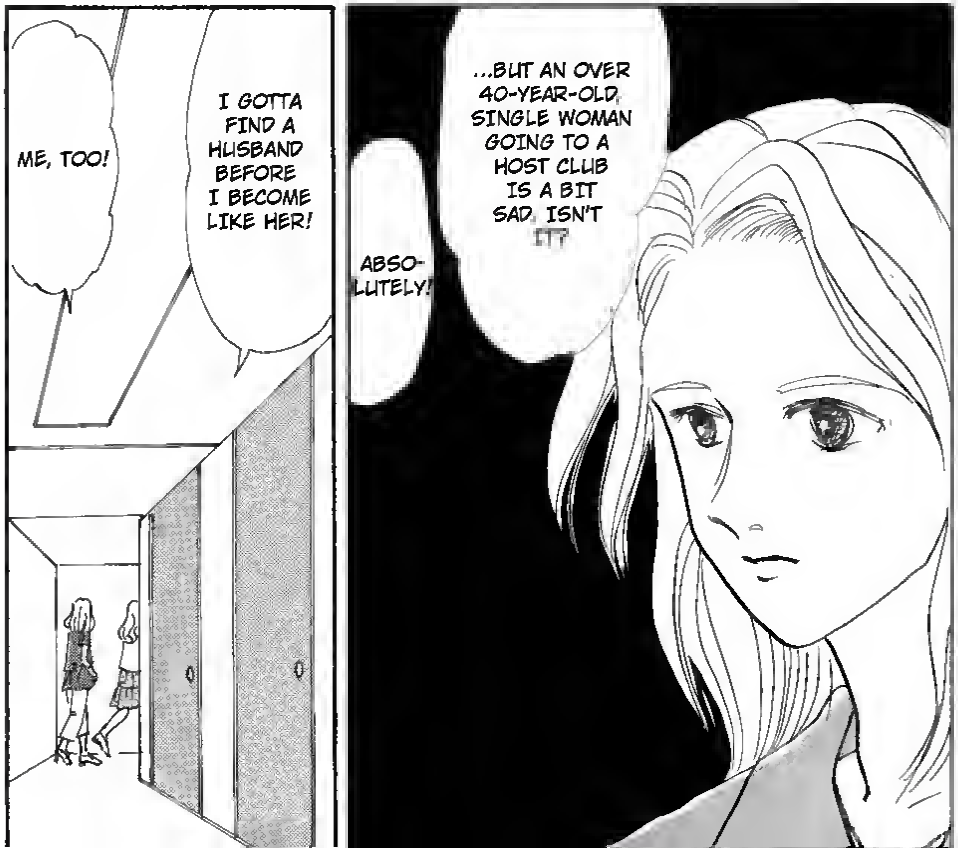
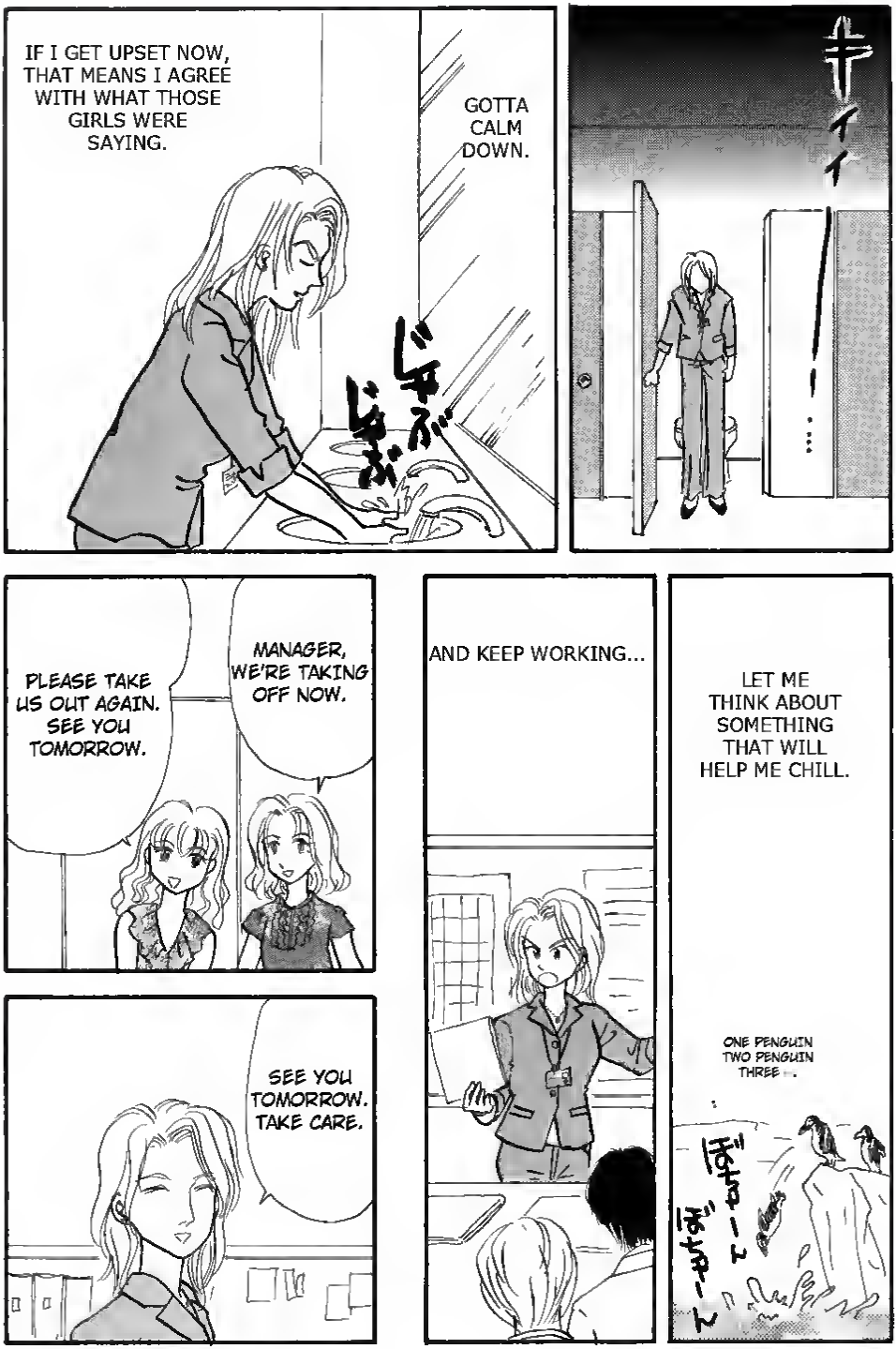

GET OUT OF HERE...
I.. I CANNOT..


THERE WAS NO PERFOR-MACE BY HOSTS, EITHER.
IT WAS A MEMBER-SHIP BASED, SO IT WAS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CLUBS.
SO HOW WAS IT? SAW ANY HANDSOME GUYS?


YOU KNOW, IT GOT ME THINKING...
MANAGER IS SO COMPETENT AND HAS MALE SUBOR-DINATES...
IT'S NOT A JOINT PARTY...
SORRY MANAGER.
IF I PUT IT IN A GOOD WAY, YOU CAN FEEL SETTLED THERE. BUT IT WAS KINDA QUIET.
YEAH, IT WASN'T UPBEAT, WAS IT?


I GOTTA FIND A HUSBAND BEFORE I BECOME LIKE HER!
ME, TOO!
...BUT AN OVER 40-YEAR-OLD, SINGLE WOMAN GOING TO A HOST CLUB IS A BIT SAD, ISN'T IT?
ABSO-LUTELY!


IF I GET UPSET NOW, THAT MEANS I AGREE WITH WHAT THOSE GIRLS WERE SAYING.
GOTTA CALM DOWN.
じゃぶじゃぶ
キィィ!!……
PLEASE TAKE US OUT AGAIN. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
MANAGER, WE'RE TAKING OFF NOW.
SEE YOU TOMORROW. TAKE CARE.
AND KEEP WORKING...
LET ME THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP ME CHILL.
ONE PENGUIN TWO PENGUIN THREE…
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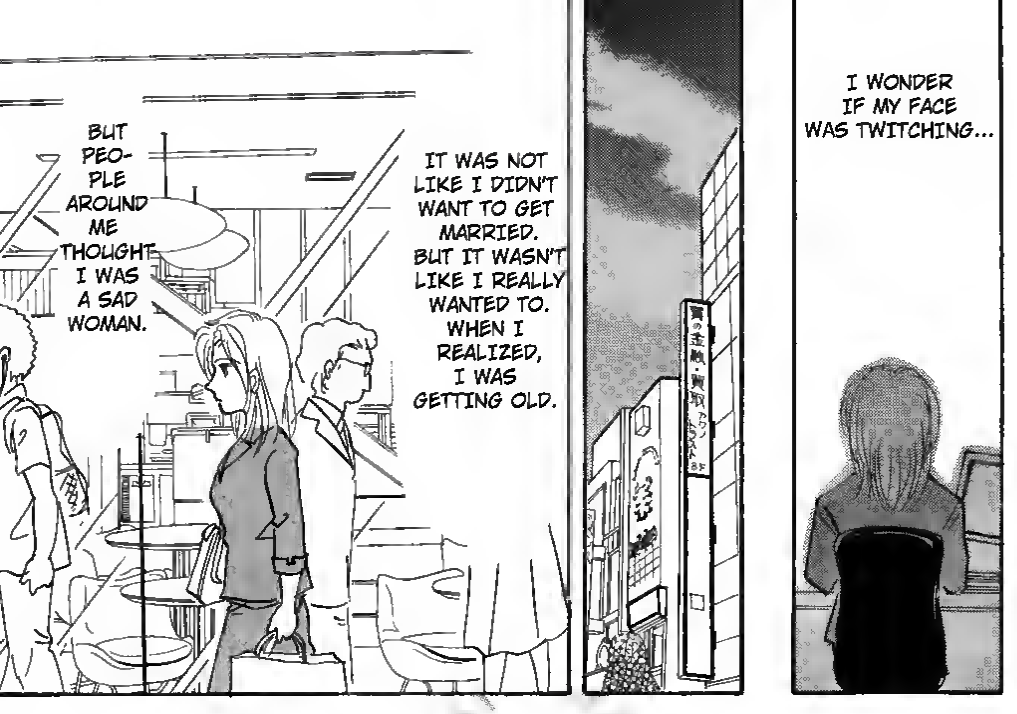
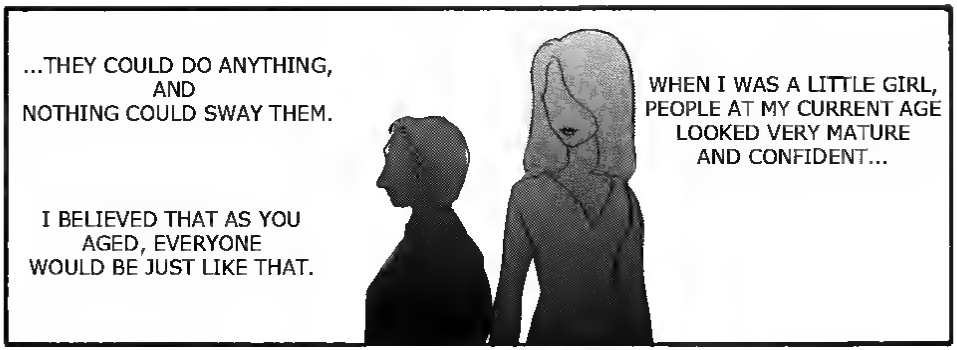
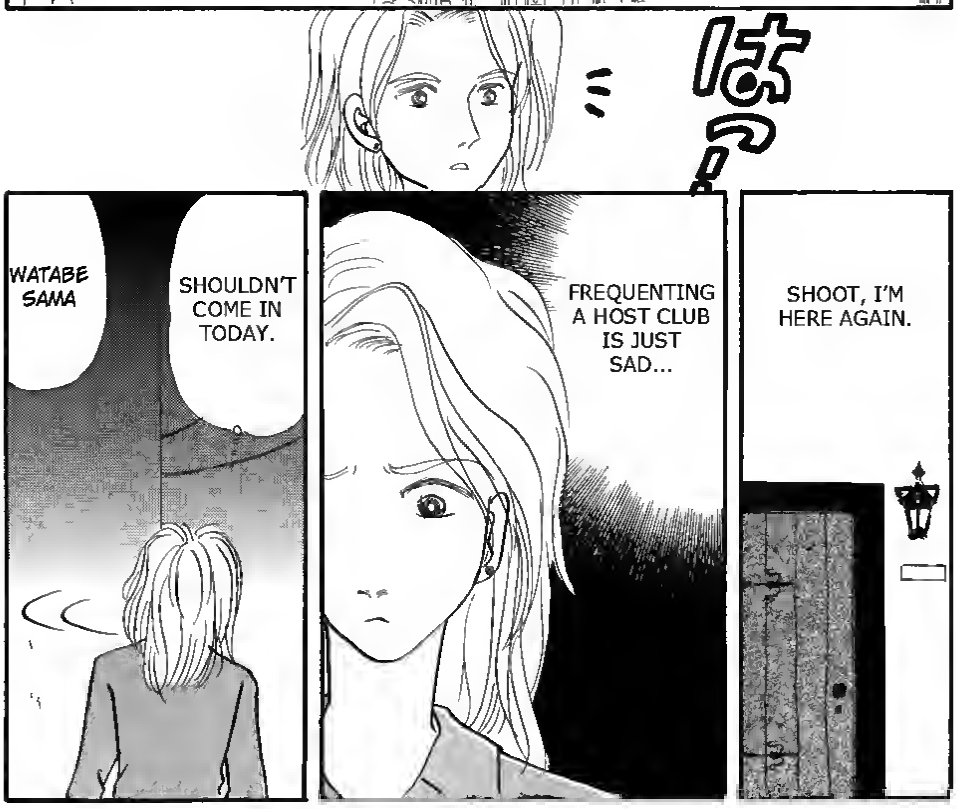
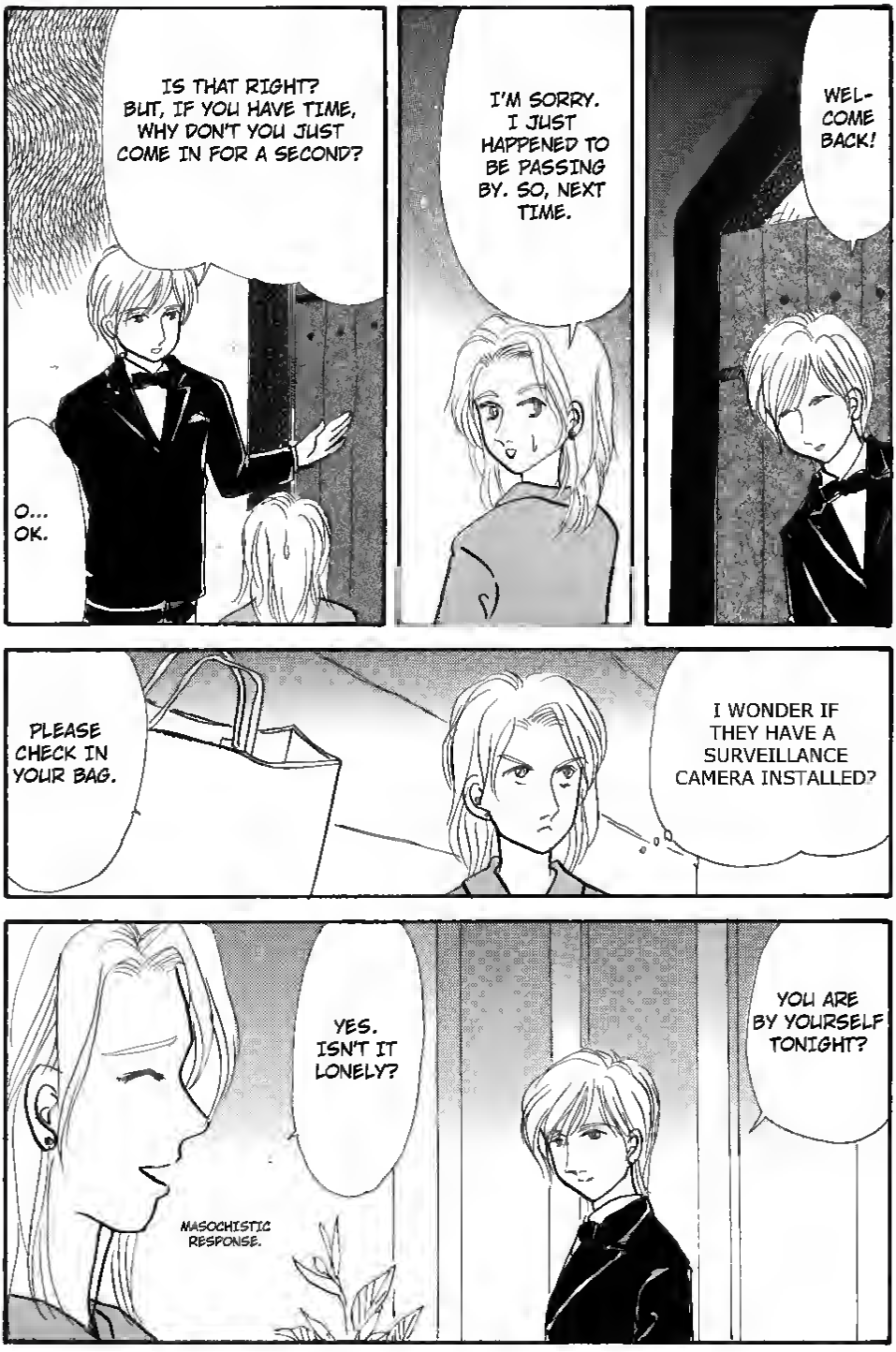

BUT PEOPLE AROUND ME THOUGHT I WAS A SAD WOMAN.
IT WAS NOT LIKE I DIDN'T WANT TO GET MARRIED. BUT IT WASN'T LIKE I REALLY WANTED TO. WHEN I REALIZED, I WAS GETTING OLD.
I WONDER IF MY FACE WAS TWITCHING...
NO!!
I HAVE PLENTY OF HOBBIES AND DO CHARITY WORK A LOT. MY LIFE IS JUST GREAT!
おほほほほーだ
WORK IS GOING WELL, I GET PAID WELL.
... I CANNOT SAY THAT...


...THEY COULD DO ANYTHING, AND NOTHING COULD SWAY THEM.
I BELIEVED THAT AS YOU AGED, EVERYONE WOULD BE JUST LIKE THAT.
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, PEOPLE AT MY CURRENT AGE LOOKED VERY MATURE AND CONFIDENT...

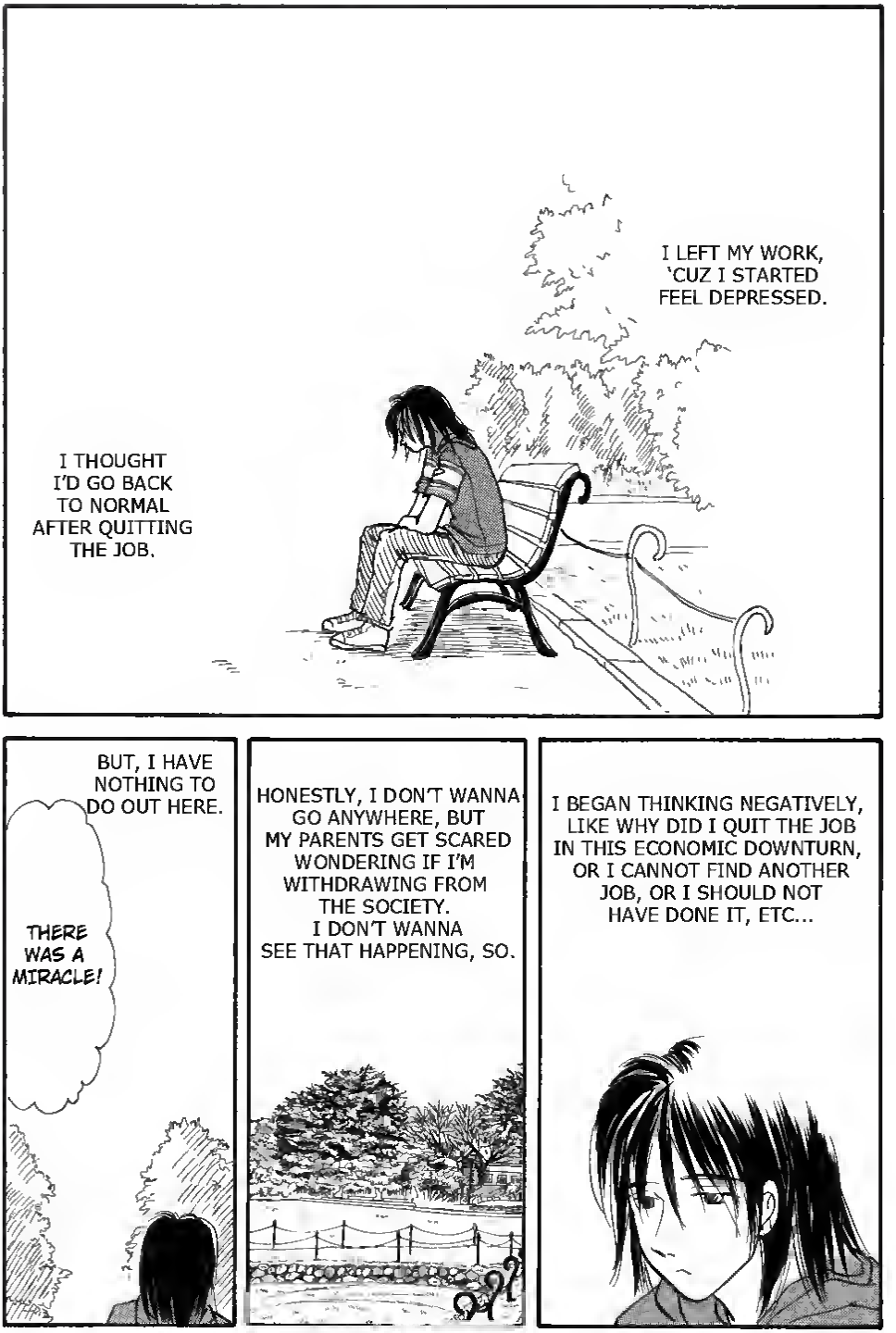
THERE ARE MORE THINGS I'M CAPABLE OF DOING BUT I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE.
IS IT ONLY ME FEELING THIS WAY?
BUT, ONCE I BECOME AN ADULT, WHAT DEPRESSES ME IS THE SAME AS THE ONE I HAD BACK IN JUNIOR OR HIGH SCHOOL.


WATABE SAMA
SHOULDN'T COME IN TODAY.
FREQUENTING A HOST CLUB IS JUST SAD...
SHOOT, I'M HERE AGAIN.

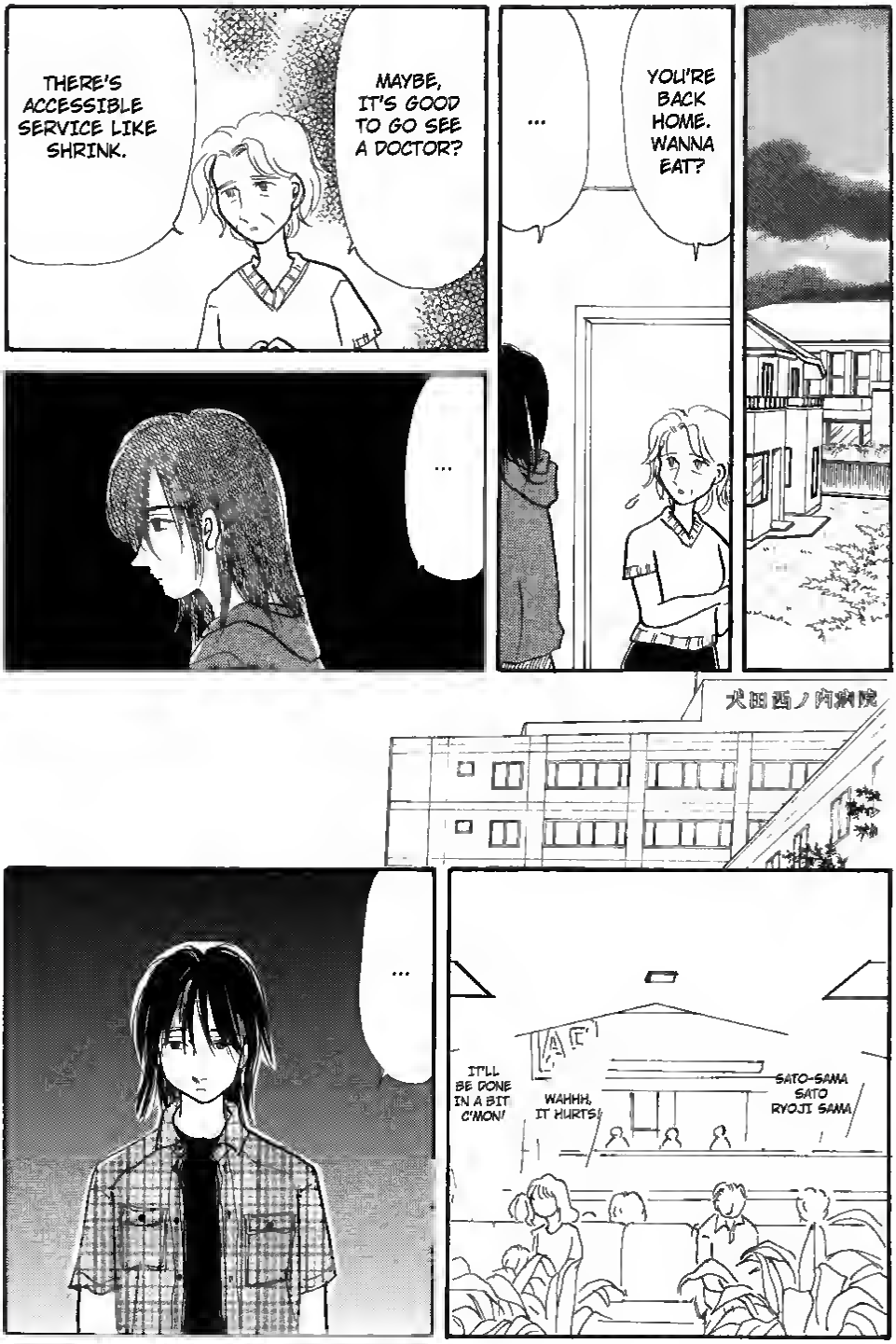

IS THAT RIGHT? BUT, IF YOU HAVE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME IN FOR A SECOND?
O... OK.
I'M SORRY. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY. SO, NEXT TIME.
WEL-COME BACK!
PLEASE CHECK IN YOUR BAG.
I WONDER IF THEY HAVE A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA INSTALLED?
YES. ISN'T IT LONELY?
MASOCHISTIC RESPONSE.
YOU ARE BY YOURSELF TONIGHT?

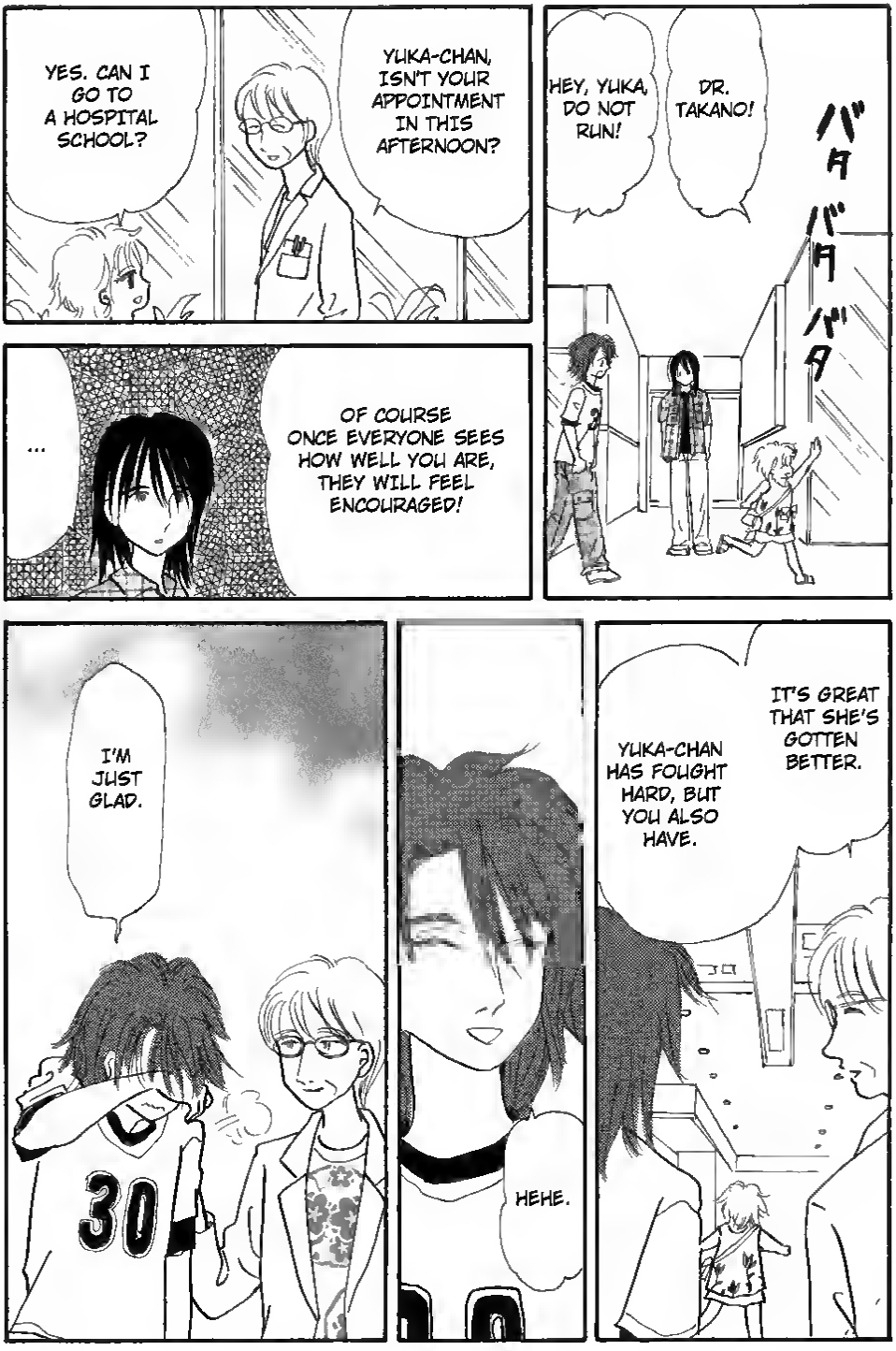
...I HAVE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO DOESN'T FEEL LONELY.
YES. BUT...
COME THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?

Nagami Club no.25


I LEFT MY WORK, 'CUZ I STARTED FEEL DEPRESSED.
I THOUGHT I'D GO BACK TO NORMAL AFTER QUITTING THE JOB.
BUT, I HAVE NOTHING TO DO OUT HERE.
THERE WAS A MIRACLE!
HONESTLY, I DON'T WANNA GO ANYWHERE, BUT MY PARENTS GET SCARED WONDERING IF I'M WITHDRAWING FROM THE SOCIETY. I DON'T WANNA SEE THAT HAPPENING, SO.
I BEGAN THINKING NEGATIVELY, LIKE WHY DID I QUIT THE JOB IN THIS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, OR I CANNOT FIND ANOTHER JOB, OR I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE IT, ETC...

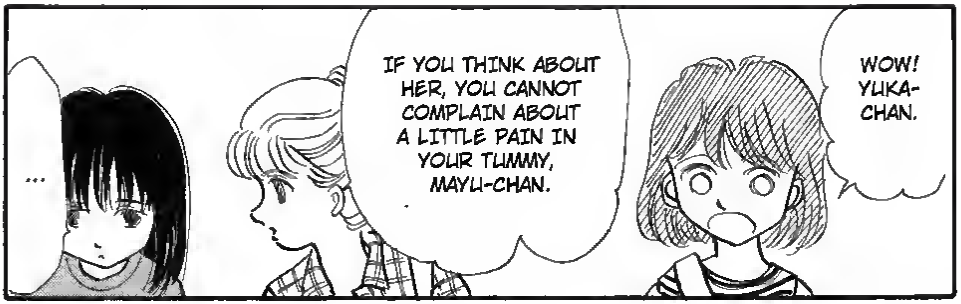
WOW! IMPRE-SSIVE!
IN MY CASE, WHEN I WAS WATCHNG TV, I CHANGED A CHANNEL, AND SAW THE SAME COMMERCIAL ON ANOTHER CHANNEL.
WHEN I WENT SHOPPING WITH MY MOM, EVERY LIGHT WAS GREEN ON THE WAY THERE AND BACK!!
REALLY? WHAT IS IT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUKA-CAN?
...
OF COURSE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS WOULD GO "HUH?"
I WONOER IF HER PARENTS ARE IN SOME KINO OF RELIGION?
ぽかーん
HUH?
I...
...I THINK IT IS A MIRACLE THAT I AM ALIVE NOW.

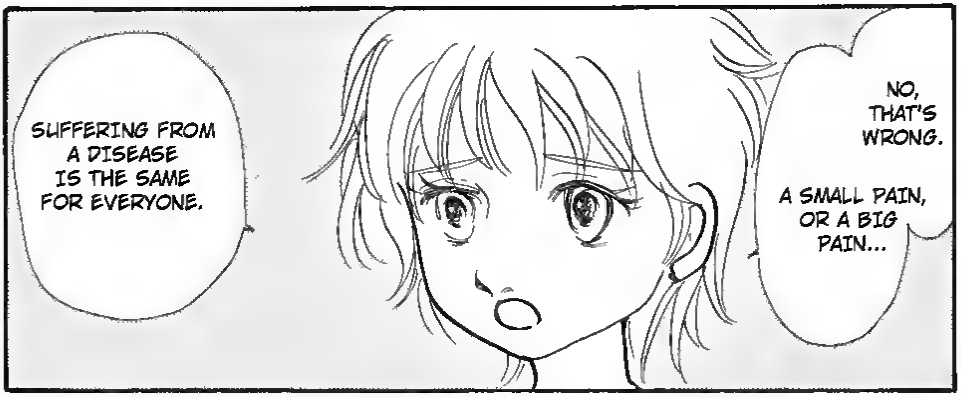

THERE'S ACCESSIBLE SERVICE LIKE SHRINK.
MAYBE, IT'S GOOD TO GO SEE A DOCTOR?
...
YOU'RE BACK HOME. WANNA EAT?
...
犬田西ノ内病院
...
IT'LL BE DONE IN A BIT C'MON!
WAHHH, IT HURTS!
SATO-SAMA SATO RYOJI SAMA


YES. CAN I GO TO A HOSPITAL SCHOOL?
YUKA-CHAN, ISN'T YOUR APPOINTMENT IN THIS AFTERNOON?
HEY, YUKA, DO NOT RUN!
DR. TAKANO!
バタバタバタ
...
OF COURSE ONCE EVERYONE SEES HOW WELL YOU ARE, THEY WILL FEEL ENCOURAGED!
I'M JUST GLAD.
30
HEHE.
YUKA-CHAN HAS FOUGHT HARD, BUT YOU ALSO HAVE.
IT'S GREAT THAT SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER.

YOSHIDA-SAMA
MAKOTO YOSHIDA-SAMA
AAAAAH
ARE YOU OK?
LOWER PART...
WHAT PART OF YOUR STOMACH?
NOOOOO. IT'S GETTING WORSE.

YUKA-CHAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA? YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR ABOUT A YEAR, RIGHT? YOU KNOW WELL ABOUT DISEASES?
...
WHAT HAPPENED ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NOT A YEAR; JUST SEVEN MONTHS.
FOR A YEAR?
WHAT? IN THE HOSPITAL?
REALLY? TO THE BONE? DOESN'T IT HURT?
IT'S CALLED SPINAL CORD INJECTION. YOU INSERT MEDICATION TO THE SPINE BY INJECTION.
ANESTHE-SIA?
NO. BECAUSE THEY ANESTHETIZE ME.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIOS LOVE STORIES OF HOSPITALIZATION OR BONE FRACTURES...
WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL A DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, YOU WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, RIGHT?
WOW! WHY?
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?

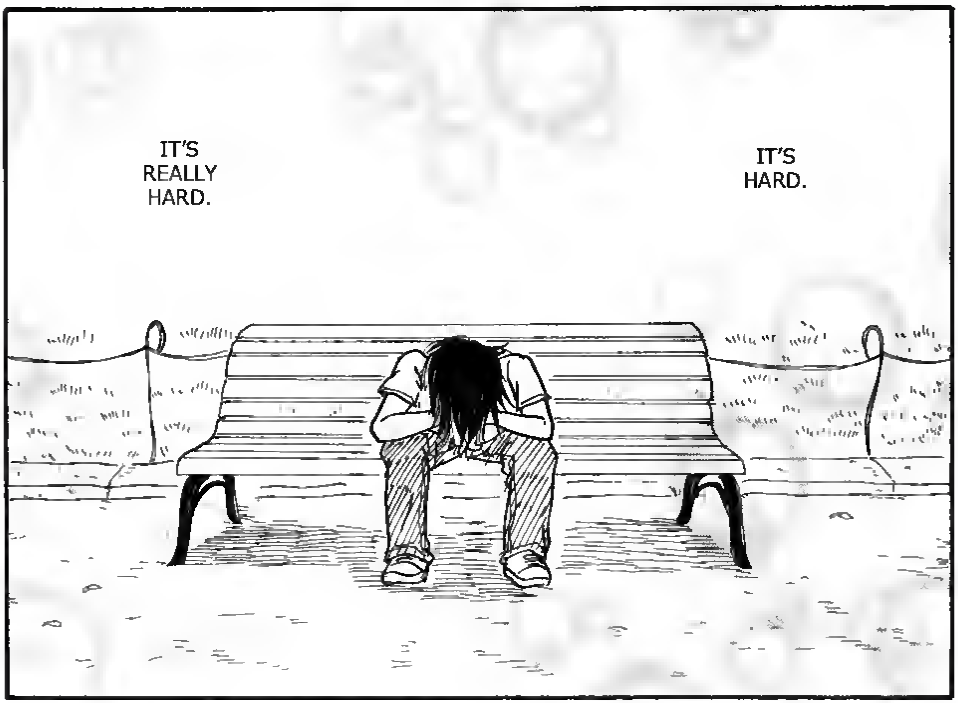

...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT HER, YOU CANNOT COMPLAIN ABOUT A LITTLE PAIN IN YOUR TUMMY, MAYU-CHAN.
WOW! YUKA-CHAN.


SUFFERING FROM A DISEASE IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE.
NO, THAT'S WRONG.
A SMALL PAIN, OR A BIG PAIN...

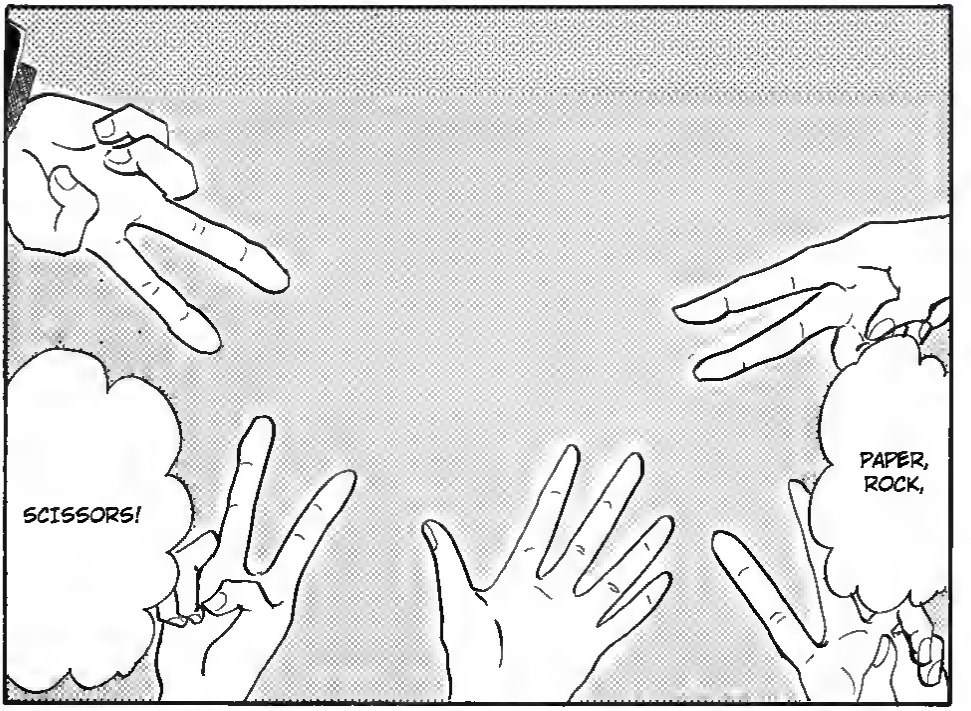
MAYU-CHAN, CAN YOU WALK? YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND REST.
Y.. YES.

THAT'S RIGHT.

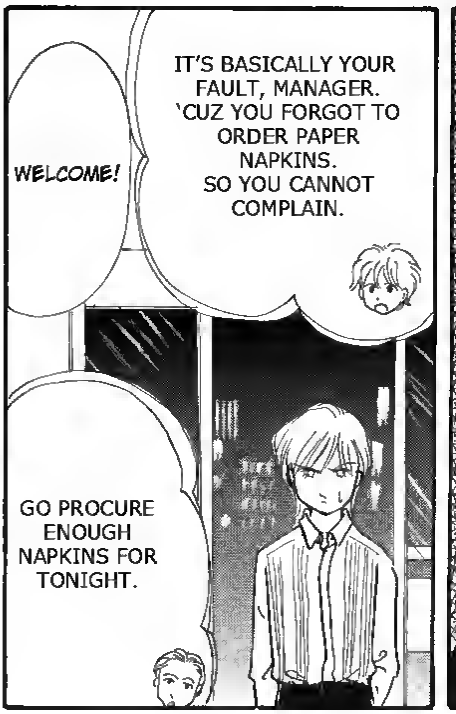
OH, LET ME CARRY YOUR SCHOOL BAG.
LEAN ON MY SHOULDER.
THANKS.

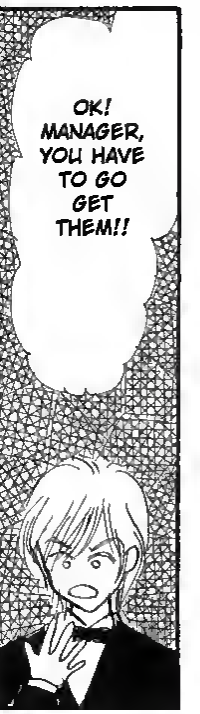

IT'S REALLY HARD.
IT'S HARD.

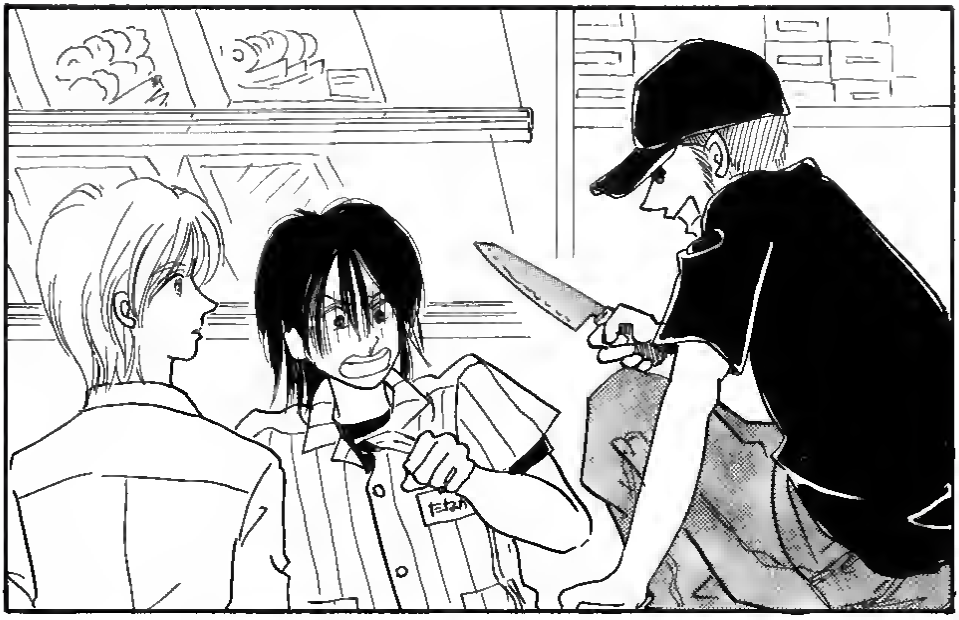
Nagomi Club no 26

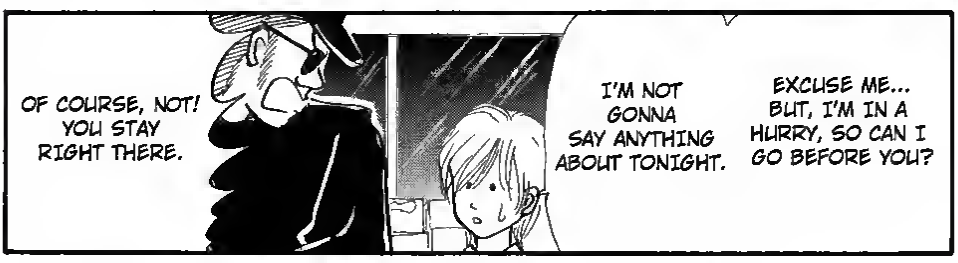

SCISSORS!
PAPER, ROCK,

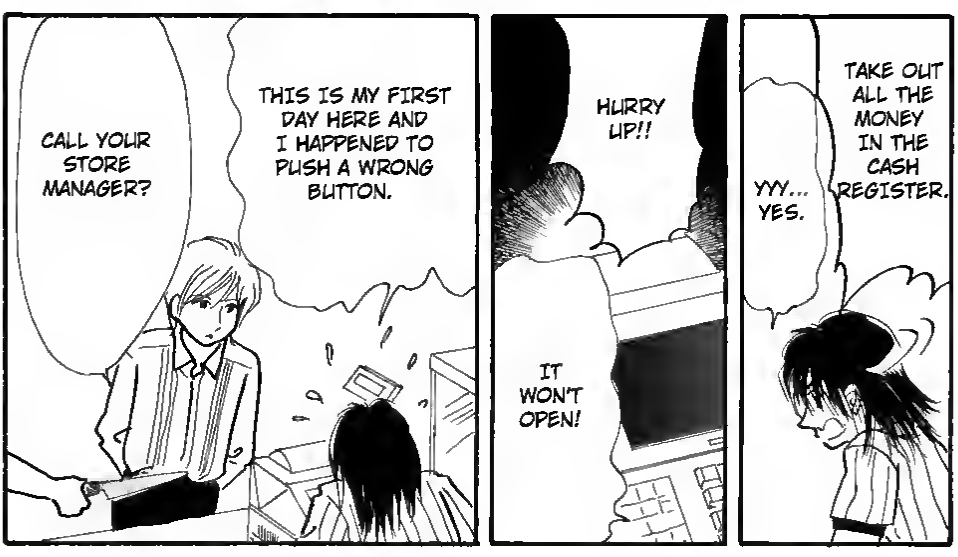
WHY DO MY EMPLOYEES ORDER ME TO GO GET THEM?
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
GIVE ME YOUR MONEY!!
THIS, PLEASE.

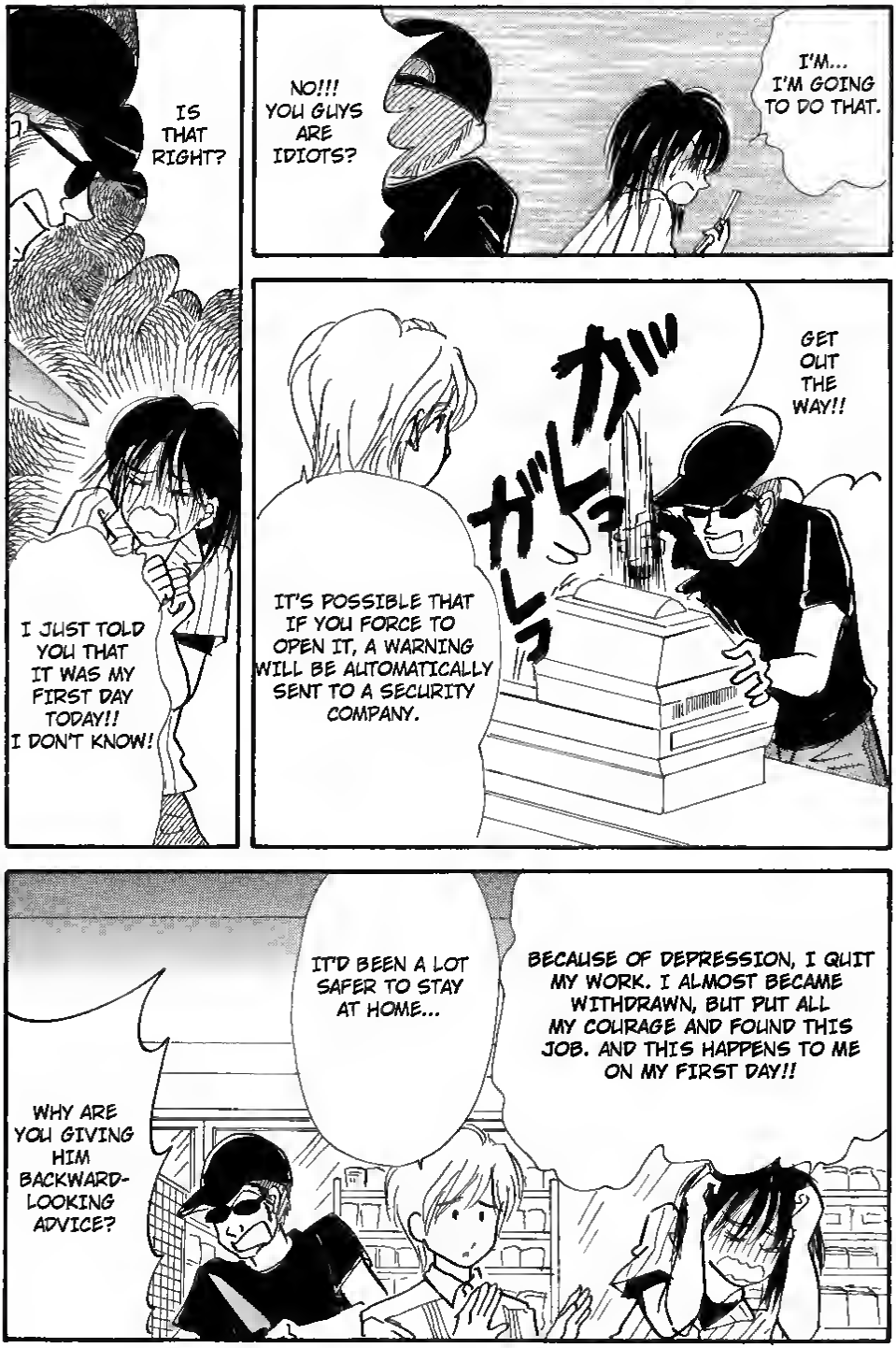

WELCOME!
IT'S BASICALLY YOUR FAULT, MANAGER. 'CUZ YOU FORGOT TO ORDER PAPER NAPKINS. SO YOU CANNOT COMPLAIN.
GO PROCURE ENOUGH NAPKINS FOR TONIGHT.


OK! MANAGER, YOU HAVE TO GO GET THEM!!



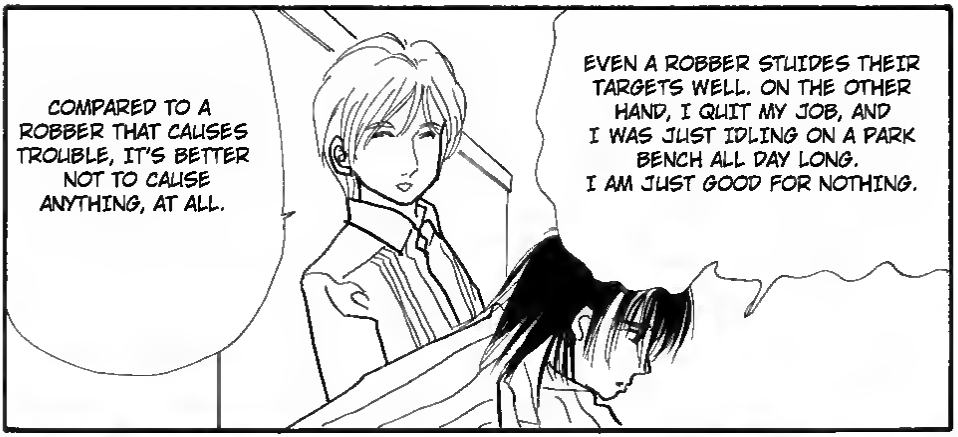

EXCUSE ME... BUT, I'M IN A HURRY, SO CAN I GO BEFORE YOU?
I'M NOT GONNA SAY ANYTHING ABOUT TONIGHT.
OF COURSE, NOT! YOU STAY RIGHT THERE.


TAKE OUT ALL THE MONEY IN THE CASH REGISTER.
YYY... YES.
HURRY UP!!
IT WON'T OPEN!
THIS IS MY FIRST DAY HERE AND I HAPPENED TO PUSH A WRONG BUTTON.
CALL YOUR STORE MANAGER?


I'M... I'M GOING TO DO THAT.
NO!!! YOU GUYS ARE IDIOTS?
GET OUT THE WAY!!
ガッ
ガレッ
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IF YOU FORCE TO OPEN IT, A WARNING WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SENT TO A SECURITY COMPANY.
IS THAT RIGHT?
I JUST TOLD YOU THAT IT WAS MY FIRST DAY TODAY!! I DON'T KNOW!
BECAUSE OF DEPRESSION, I QUIT MY WORK. I ALMOST BECAME WITHDRAWN, BUT PUT ALL MY COURAGE AND FOUND THIS JOB. AND THIS HAPPENS TO ME ON MY FIRST DAY!!
IT'D BEEN A LOT SAFER TO STAY AT HOME...
WHY ARE YOU GIVING HIM BACKWARD-LOOKING ADVICE?

IF YOU ARE THAT SOBER ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, THEN WHY DON'T YOU STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND GET AWAY?
IF YOU DO THAT NOW, I WILL THROW THIS PAINT BALL WITHOUT TARGETING YOU.
WELL, ROBBERY MAY BE MORE AGGRESSIVE.
WELL... ROBBERY IS MORE FORWARD-THINKING, YOU THINK?
THERE'S NOTHING TO COMPARE!!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CRIME IN REAL TIME. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING NOW?
SHUT UP!!
THAT'S A CRIME!!
THEN, A STORE MANAGER WHERE I USED TO WORK KNOWS THIS GROUP THAT DEALS WITH ORGANS. LET ME HOOK YOU UP.
YOU'RE GONNA THROW THAT THING ANYWAY?
I NEED MONEY RIGHT NOW!!

I WAS UNEMPLOYED UNTIL YESTERDAY.
I HAD TO STEP OUT OF MY BUSINESS TO GET SOMETHING.
WHAT TA? THIS IS LIKE A GRADE SCHOOL KID'S ALLOWANCE.
1000円
QUOカード
SHIT!! OH, YEAH, GIVE ME YOUR MONEY!!
NO... THAT'S A WRONG SUGGESTION.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP AND TRY ANOTHER CONVENIENCE STORE?
OH! YOU LOOKED SPONTANEOUS, BUT YOU DID YOUR STUDY.
IS THAT SO...
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE IDEA OF SAVING ONLY YOUR LIFE...
AS LONG AS WE ESCAPE THIS SITUATION, IT'LL BE FINE.
PERHAPS, OTHER STORES HAVE A BETTER SECURITY SYSTEM THAN HERE.
I AIN'T GONNA GO TO A STORE WITH A TIGHTER SECURITY SYSTEM!!


COMPARED TO A ROBBER THAT CAUSES TROUBLE, IT'S BETTER NOT TO CAUSE ANYTHING, AT ALL.
EVEN A ROBBER STUDIES THEIR TARGETS WELL. ON THE OTHER HAND, I QUIT MY JOB, AND I WAS JUST IDLING ON A PARK BENCH ALL DAY LONG. I AM JUST GOOD FOR NOTHING.

YOU'RE IRRITATING ME!
SHUT THE F$#K UP!

I'M JUST...
うじうじ
イライラ

AFTER ALL, PEOPLE BELIEVED I WAS GOOD FOR NOTHING...
I WANTED TO DO SOMEHING ABOUT IT AND BEGAN THIS JOB. SEE WHAT HAPPENED ON MY FIRST DAY.
I'M JUST...

THANK GOD, POLICE ARE HERE.
NO, IT'S MY CELL PHONE'S RING TONE.
SHIT!!
P... POLICE!
ファーン
ファーン
ファーン
ファーン
どんっ
HELLO.
IT IS A POLICE CAR SIREN OF "SEIBU KEISATSU." I FORGOT TO TURN ON A SILENT MODE.
HUH?
NO OBVIOUS EXCUSE! YOU WERE GOOFING AROUND, WEREN'T YOU?
IN FACT, I JUST ENCOUNTERED A ROBBERY.
MANAGER! HOW LONG DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TO GET THE STUFF? COME BACK SOON!!

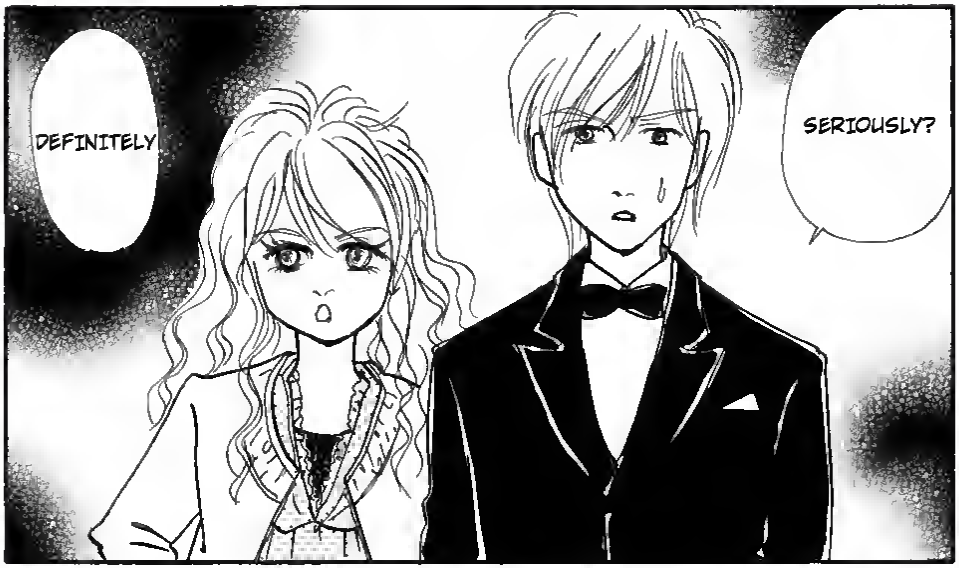
NO, YOU HAVEN'T PAID.
THIS IS ALL I NEED, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT A PLASTIC BAG, AT ALL.
EXCUSE ME. I GOTTA HEAD BACK RIGHT AWAY. CALL THE POLICE LATER.
AH, WELL...
NO WORRIES. WE ARE LIKE COMRADES THAT SURVIVED AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION TOGETHER. I KNOW THE CARD DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LEFT ON IT, ANYWAY.
USE THE PRE-PAID CARD. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CHANGE. KEEP IT.
BUT...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN, MY COMRADE!!
NO...
... THERE ISN'T ENOUGH MONEY ON THIS CARD...

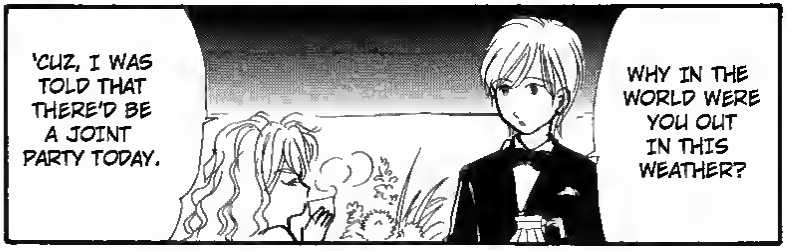
Nagomi Club no 27

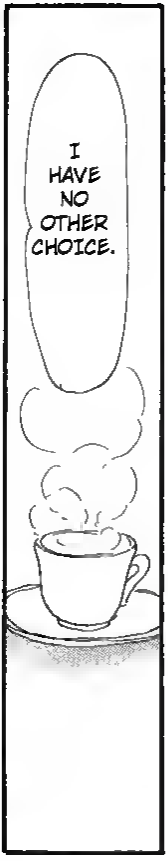
ビョオオオ
ビュウウウウ
I'M SORRY, BUT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN THE NEXT BUS COMES. I CANNOT TAKE A TAXI, EITHER.
WE'RE GETTING A DIRECT HIT. ALL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN NIXED, TOO. LET'S CLOSE THE CLUB TONIGHT.
GOT IT. BE CAREFUL, MANAGER.
YES, THANK YOU.
OK, LET'S TAKE OFF NOW.
ピンポーン

THANK GOD! IT'S OPEN!!
SERIOUSLY, I'M SAVED!!
SHOOT! MY HAIR LOOKS AWFUL NOW. THE TYPHOON HAS RUINED IT!!
EXCUSE ME. I'M GLAD YOU ARE HERE. BUT THIS IS A MEMBER ONLY CLUB.
REALLY? THEN, I'LL BECOME ONE.
THIS ISN'T LIKE STORE MEMBERSHIP, SO, YOU CANNOT BECOME A MEMBER RIGHT AWAY. ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TONIGHT.
BUT, THE MASTER IS HERE.
I'M NOT A MASTER.
AT ANY RATE, LET ME REST HERE. AT LEAST UNTIL IT GETS BETTER OUTSIDE, LET ME DRINK SOMETHING. THIS IS A BAR, ISN'T IT?
スタスタスタ

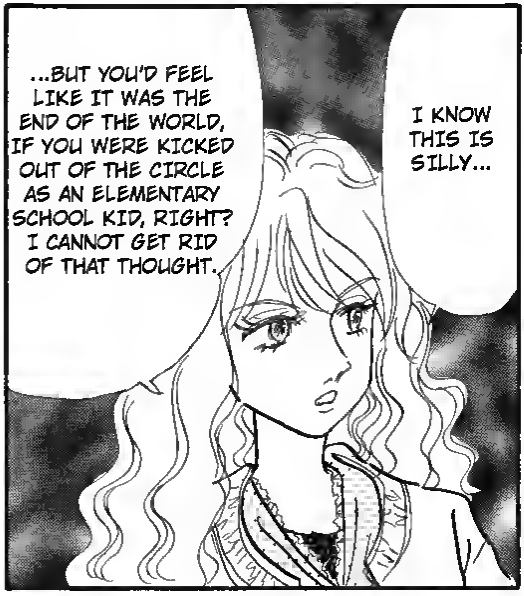
WHY ARE YOU SO PRECISE? DON'T MATTER! JUST THREE MONTHS LEFT. LET ME IN.
YOU'RE 20 YEARS AND NINE MONTHS.
DON'T WORRY. I'M 21. TWENTY-ONE.
WE CANNOT LET A MINOR IN HERE.
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT GUY. FORCED A GIRL OUT TO THE TYPHOON.

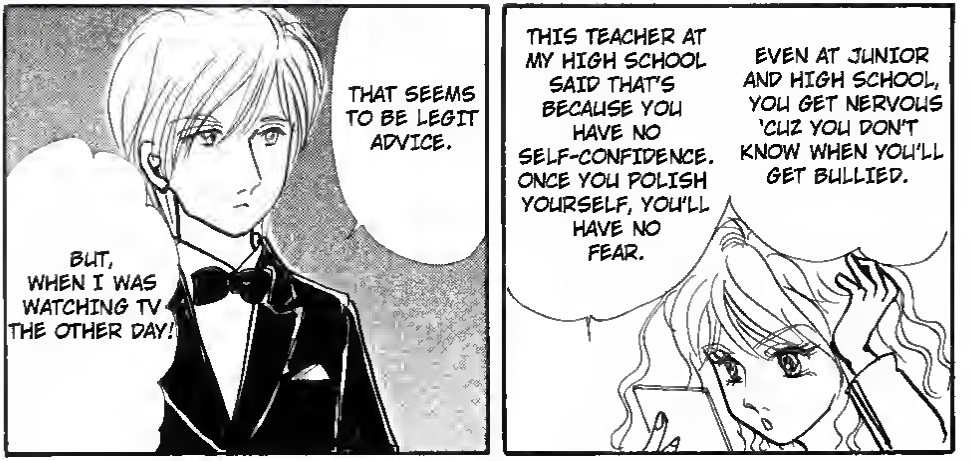

SERIOUSLY?
DEFINITELY

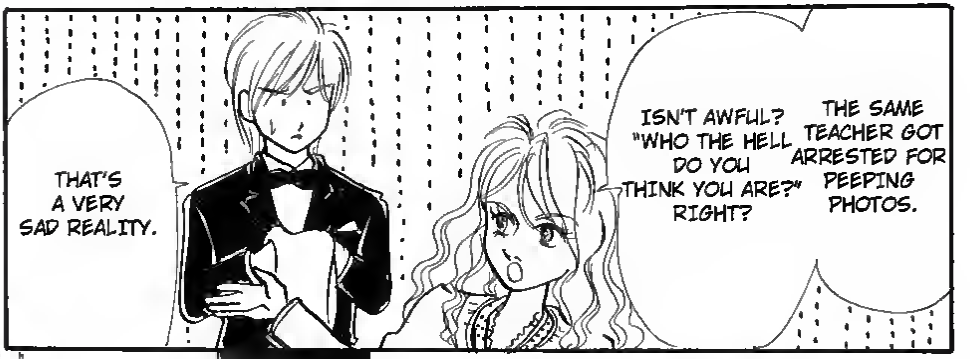

WHY IN THE WORLD WERE YOU OUT IN THIS WEATHER?
'CUZ, I WAS TOLD THAT THERE'D BE A JOINT PARTY TODAY.

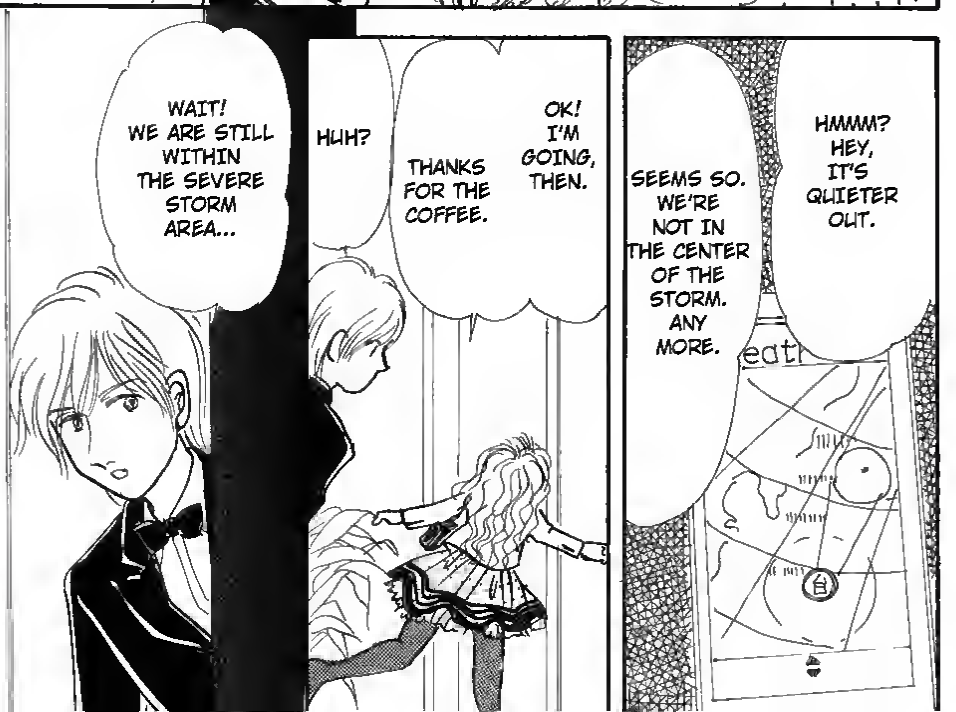

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

ON THIS AWFUL DAY?
PROBABLY, IT'D BE CANCELED. BUT, WHAT IF IT WAS GOING ON? I DIDN'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT.


I KNOW THIS IS SILLY...
...BUT YOU'D FEEL LIKE IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD, IF YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF THE CIRCLE AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID, RIGHT? I CANNOT GET RID OF THAT THOUGHT.

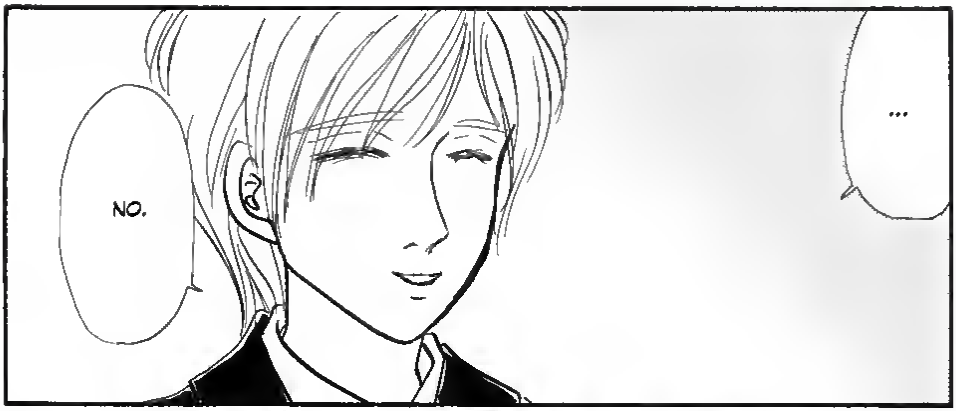

BUT, WHEN I WAS WATCHING TV THE OTHER DAY!
THAT SEEMS TO BE LEGIT ADVICE.
THIS TEACHER AT MY HIGH SCHOOL SAID THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO SELF-CONFIDENCE. ONCE YOU POLISH YOURSELF, YOU'LL HAVE NO FEAR.
EVEN AT JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL, YOU GET NERVOUS 'CUZ YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'LL GET BULLIED.

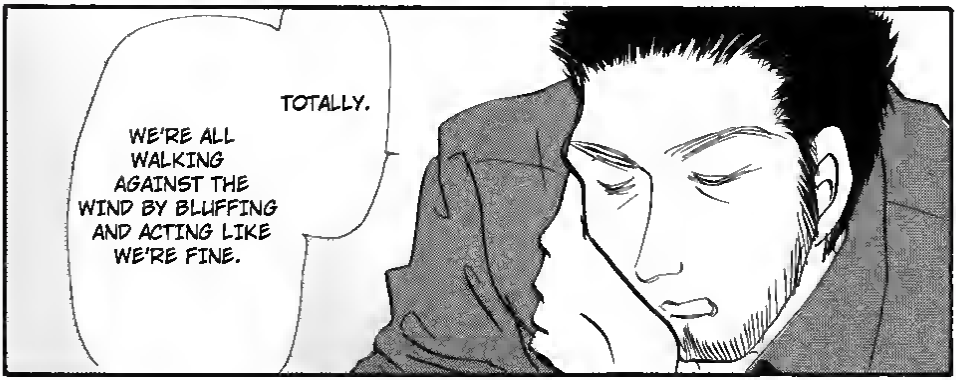

THAT'S A VERY SAD REALITY.
ISN'T AWFUL? "WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?" RIGHT?
THE SAME TEACHER GOT ARRESTED FOR PEEPING PHOTOS.


WAIT! WE ARE STILL WITHIN THE SEVERE STORM AREA...
HUH?
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.
OK! I'M GOING, THEN.
SEEMS SO. WE'RE NOT IN THE CENTER OF THE STORM. ANY MORE.
HMMM? HEY, IT'S QUIETER OUT.

がばあっ
WHAAAT? I CAME HERE ALL THE WAY IN THE STORM. YOU SHOULD COMMEND A HARD-WORKING EMPLOYEE.
ポポポ
ドドドキ
GO...GO-SAN, DON'T SCARE ME!
WE'RE CLOSED TODAY. I EMAILED ALL OF YOU EARLIER.
OHHH, YEAH, IT WAS DELIVERED. I NEVER NOTICED IT.
BUMMER! I CAME HERE FOR NOTHING.
HMM? THERE WAS A CUSTOMER?
NO. SHE WAS HERE TO TAKE COVER.
I SEE.
I WANT SOME COFFEE, TOO.
YOU KNOW WHAT. IT'D BEEN BETTER IF IT HAD BEEN YOU.

NOPE.
YEAH?
GO-SAN, YOU ALWAYS PREACH OUR CUSTOMERS AND YOU ARE CONFIDENT, SO, YOU COULD'VE HAD A TALK WITH THAT GIRL.
WHAT ABOUT?
THERE ARE MANY PITIFUL THINGS IN MY LIFE. I ASK MYSELF WHAT THE HELL I'M DOING.
I HAVE NO SELF-CONFIDENCE. NOT YET.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MANAGER?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT, AT ALL.


...
NO.


TOTALLY.
WE'RE ALL WALKING AGAINST THE WIND BY BLUFFING AND ACTING LIKE WE'RE FINE.

TOTA-LLY.

Nagomi Club no 28

ぶらぶらタウンNEWS
BURABURA TOWN NEWS?
THIS IS A FREE LOCAL PAPER THAT WRITES ABOUT LOCAL RESTAURANT BUSINESSES.
IN THE "STORE MANAGER COLUMN" WE ASK EACH MANAGER TO WRITE A 300 CHARACTER COLUMN.
AND IT'S OUR TURN TO WRITE ONE?
STORE MANAGER? THAT MEANS YOU?
DO WE GET COMPENSATED FOR IT?

WE CANNOT PAY YOU FOR WRITING A COLUMN; BUT YOUR BUSINESS WILL BE IN THE PAPER.
THIS IS A MEMBER-ONLY BUSINESS, SO WE DON'T NECESSARILY NEED ADVERTISEMENT.
THIS IS A PAPER TO BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT, THEN, THAT MAY AFFECT THE LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS.
ううっ...
SO, I HAD TO ACCEPT THE OFFER...
... I'M NOT GOOD AT WRITING. IN ADDITION TO THAT, I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT WHAT TO WRITE.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
THEREFORE, I'D LIKE TO YOU PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING IDEAS TO WRITE ABOUT.

DAMN IT. MANAGER HAS GOTTEN EVEN MORE SERIOUS.
IT'S YOUR FAULT, YUYA.
WHY?
うーん
うーん
CERTAINLY
A GOOD COLUMN DOESN'T TALK ABOUT SOMETHING INTERESTING, BUT IT IS ABOUT SOMETHING BORING NOBODY PAYS ATTENTION TO AND TURNS IT TO AN INTERESTING STORY. RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT IT, MANAGER. NO ONE CAN ASK FOR A GOOD QUALITY COLUMN IN A LOCAL AMATEUR PAPER. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL COLUMN WILL SUFFICE!
IT UPSET ME A BIT, BUT HE MADE A GOOD POINT.
RELAXING MUSIC
I'LL JUST GET IT DONE. LET ME RELAX NOW.
RELAXING AROMA
RELAXING DRINK
YUYA, YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
NOW, HE'S DEPRESSED.
WHY?
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

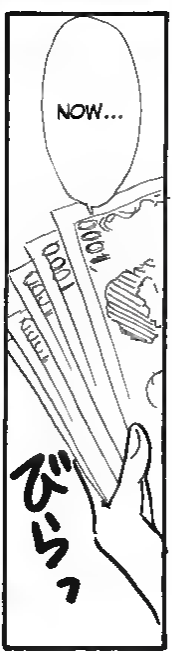
I SEE. THANK YOU.
I'VE BROUGHT SOME BOOKS BY POPULAR COLUMNISTS, MAYBE YOU CAN USE THEM AS REFERENCES.
I GOT RELAXED WAY TOO MUCH AND ENDED UP SLEEPING UNTIL PAST NOON.
I COULDN'T WRITE A LINE.
I SEE. I'LL DO JUS THAT.
DRINK SOME SAKE AND GET DRUNK. THAT MAY HELP YOU WRITE. YOU'RE THE MANAGER OF A DRINKING PLACE, SO IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED.
THOSE BOOKS WERE SOOO INTRIGUING THAT I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT READING THEM THROUGH.
I COULDN'T WRITE EVEN A SENTENCE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MANAGER?!

AS YOU GUESSED IT, I COULDN'T WRITE, AT ALL.
NOW I'M HANGOVER.
HERE'S A SPORTS DRINK
AHHH... THE GROUND IS SPINNING!
...BEFORE I GOT BOOZY, I BEGAN FEELING SICK...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DRANK, I COULDN'T GET DRUNK ENOUGH. SO I KEPT ON GOING ON AND ON...

THE BOOKS DONE BY PROFESSIONALS AND THE POWER OF SAKE FAILED TO HELP ME OUT OF THIS SITUATION.
NOT TO MENTION MY INABILITY TO WRITE,

WHAT SHOULD I DO...
THAT'S A BIT DELICATE SITU-ATION.
JUST 5,000 YEN?
5,000 YEN IS THE AMOUNT A NEW COMEDIAN OR A HOUSEWIFE WILL JUMP ON

I'M WILLING TO PAY 5,000 YEN OUT OF MY OWN POCKET TO HIRE A GHOSTWRITER.
...I'VE DECIDED TO RELY ON THE POWER OF MONEY!
GRIN


NOW...
ぴらっ

WHAAAT? THAT'S HOW IT GOES DOWN
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
I APPRECIATE THAT. WHEN THE TIME FOR A BONUS EVALUATION COMES, I'LL TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION.
YUIYA-KUN
IF NO ONE WANTS TO DO IT, I DON'T MIND DOING IT FOR YOU.
IT'S TOO LATE, GUYS.
NO, LET ME DO IT!!
THEN, LET ME!
THERE'RE MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KEEP ON READING YOUR WRITING. THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'M HERE TODAY.
HIS UNEXPECTED TALENT.
YEAH, THIS (YUIYA'S) WRITING IS INTERESTING
O... OH, YEAH?
YOU KNOW, YOUR ARTICLE RECEIVED GOOD FEEDBACK.

OF COURSE, WE'LL PAY YOU FOR THAT, THOUGH IT'S NOT THAT MUCH.
I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD MAKE A SERIES OUT OF THIS FROM NEXT MONTH ON.

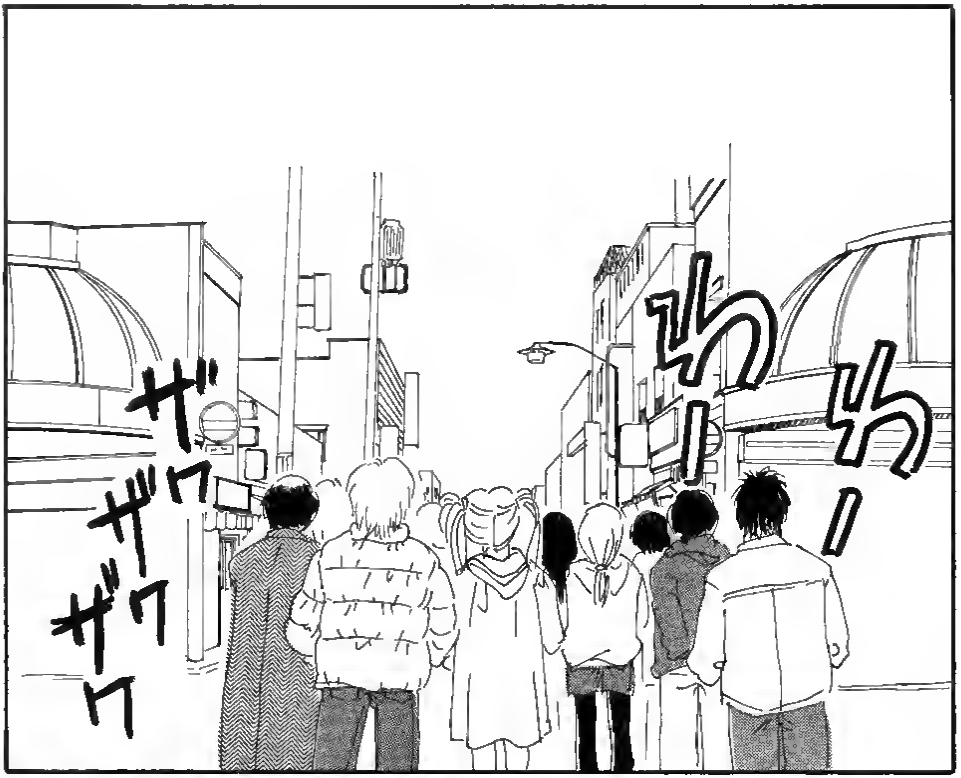
WHY DON'T YOU ACCEPT THAT OFFER, MANAGER?
Y... YUYA-KUN

WELL... I CANNOT DECIDE ON MY OWN.
HAH?

THAT'S RIGHT. AND WE HAVE ASKED PRETTY MUCH ALL MANAGERS AVAILABLE, SO WE NEEDED TO COME UP WITH A NEW IDEA.
THIS IS THE PAPER TO STIMULATE THIS AREA AND WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS, RIGHT?

PLEASE! JUST TO INVIGORATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY!!
OF COURSE, I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
I CANNOT WAIT FOR THE BONUS TIME.
ニヤリ
MANAGER.
WAIT A SEC! THE TRUTH IS...
SHOOT! I HAVE A NEXT APPO-INTMENT! I'LL COME BACK FOR MORE DETAILS LATER!
WAIT! HEY!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COUNTED ON THE POWER OF MONEY CARELESSLY...

Nagomi Club no 29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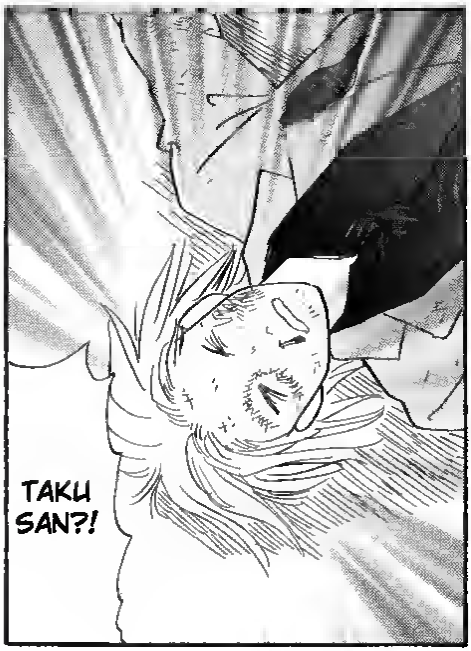
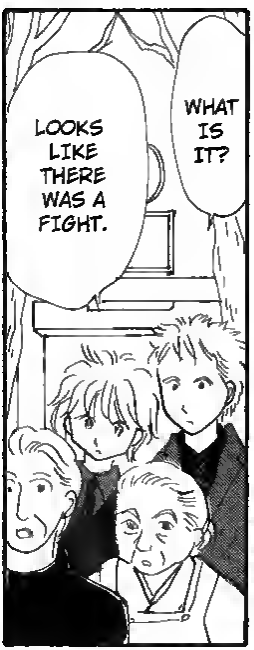
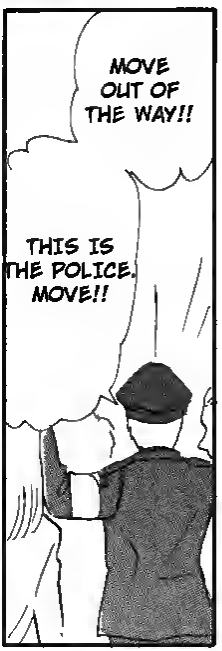
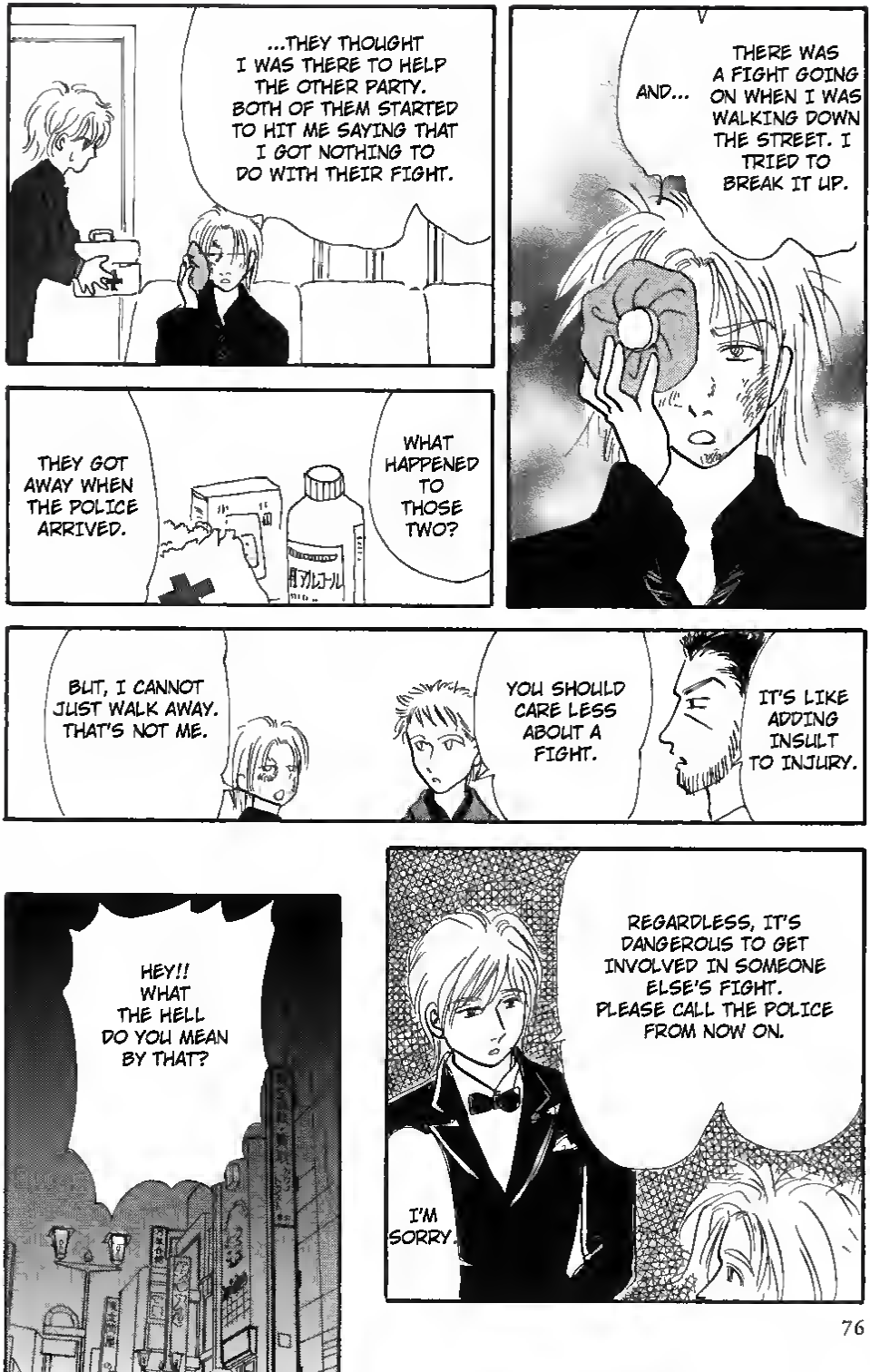

TAKU SAN?!


WHAT IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A FIGHT.


MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!!
THIS IS THE POLICE. MOVE!!


...THEY THOUGHT I WAS THERE TO HELP THE OTHER PARTY. BOTH OF THEM STARTED TO HIT ME SAYING THAT I GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR FIGHT.
AND... THERE WAS A FIGHT GOING ON WHEN I WAS WALKING DOWN THE STREET. I TRIED TO BREAK IT UP.
THEY GOT AWAY WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO?
BUT, I CANNOT JUST WALK AWAY. THAT'S NOT ME.
YOU SHOULD CARE LESS ABOUT A FIGHT.
IT'S LIKE ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.
HEY!! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
REGARDLESS, IT'S DANGEROUS TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMEONE ELSE'S FIGHT. PLEASE CALL THE POLICE FROM NOW ON.
I'M SORRY.

I DON'T WANNA A MONSTER TO CALL ME THAT!!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU UGLY BITCH!!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
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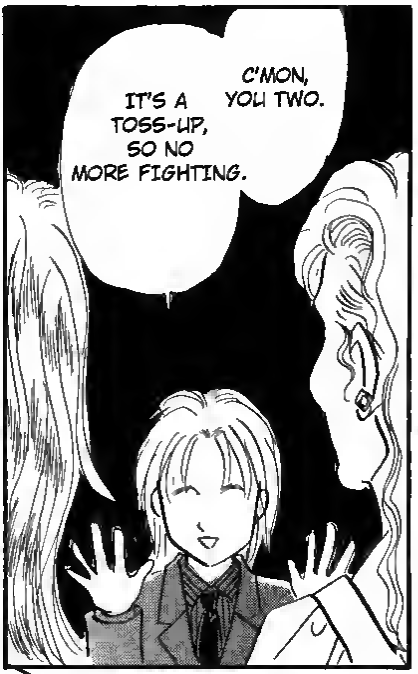
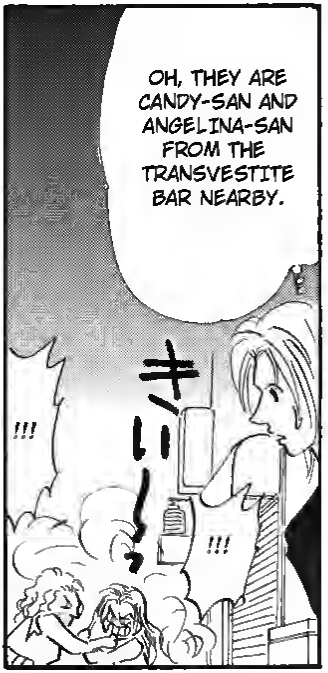

C'MON, YOU TWO.
IT'S A TOSS-UP, SO NO MORE FIGHTING.


OH, THEY ARE CANDY-SAN AND ANGELINA-SAN FROM THE TRANSVESTITE BAR NEARBY.
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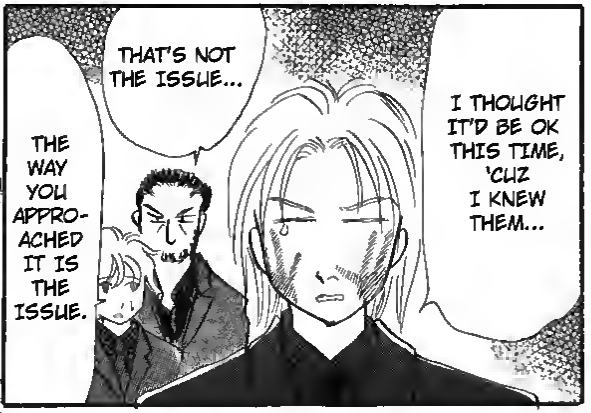
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE...
I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK THIS TIME, 'CUZ I KNEW THEM...
THE WAY YOU APPRO-ACHED IT IS THE ISSUE.

HE STOLE OUR FOOD!!

I'M GOING TO SPLIT THIS IN HALF FOR YA. SO, BE NICE TO EACH OTHER.
HOLD ON, YOU GUYS.

ARE THEY FIGHTING OVER FOOD?
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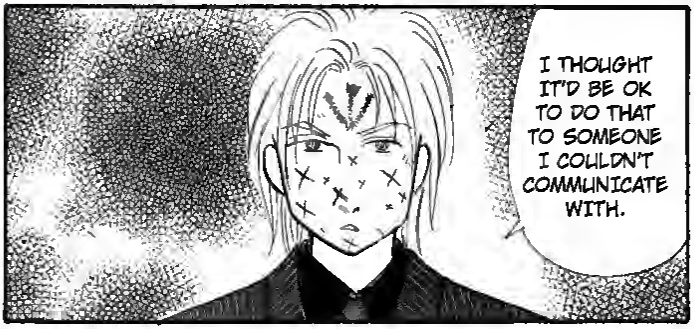
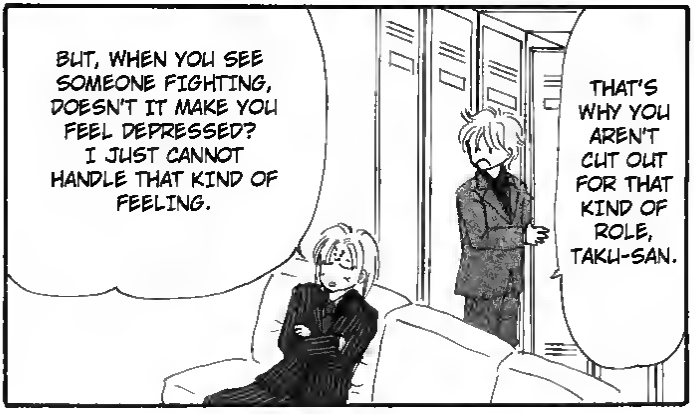
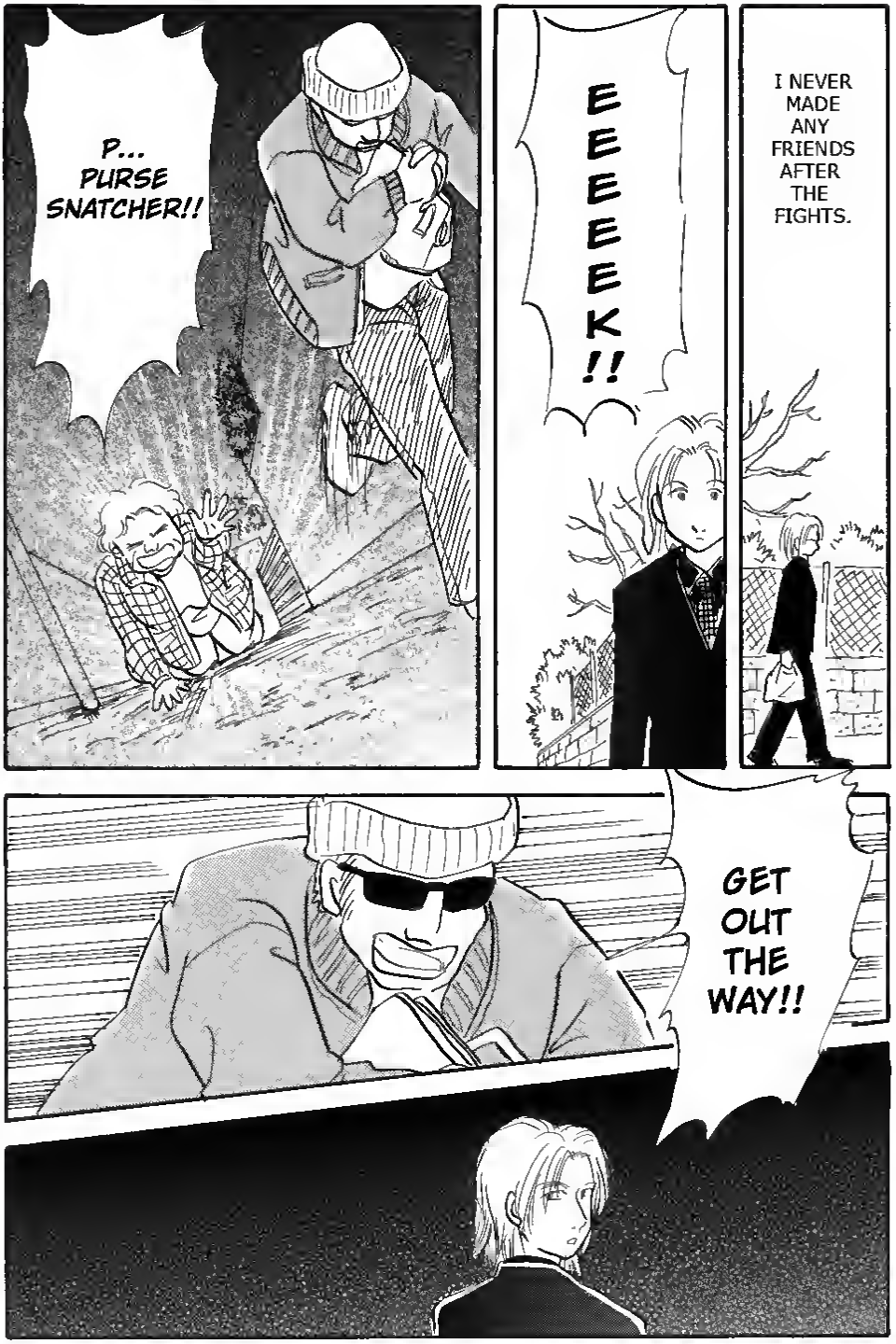
OUCHHHHH!!


I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK TO DO THAT TO SOMEONE I COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WITH.


BUT, WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE FIGHTING, DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL DEPRESSED? I JUST CANNOT HANDLE THAT KIND OF FEELING.
THAT'S WHY YOU AREN'T CUT OUT FOR THAT KIND OF ROLE, TAKU-SAN.

YEAH, A LONG TIME AGO, I HATED EVERYONE AND HAD BRAWLS ALL THE TIME.
BUT, FIGHTING DIDN'T SOLVE A THING.
I WONDER WHY HUMAN BEINGS CANNOT GET ALONG WITH ONE OTHER?
THAT'S SUCH A PROFOUND QUESTION; BUT WE ALL HAVE AT LEAST A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WE DON'T QUITE LIKE, RIGHT?
LOVE & PEACE
WHEN YOU START SAYING THAT, THAT'S A SIGN OF AGE.
HERE IT COMES! "I USED TO BE BAD" STATEMENT.
THEN, DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS THAT WAY?
NOPE.
ME, NEITHER.
I KNOW.
BUT, AFTER YOU REACHED THE POINT WHERE YOU COULDN'T EVEN GET UP, DID YOU NOT BECOME SUPER GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE SUNSET BEHIND YOU?
AREN'T YOU AGAINST VIOLENCE?
OU... OU...
THIS IS A PUNI-SHMENT


I NEVER MADE ANY FRIENDS AFTER THE FIGHTS.
EEEEEEK!!
P... PURSE SNATCHER!!
GET OUT THE WAY!!

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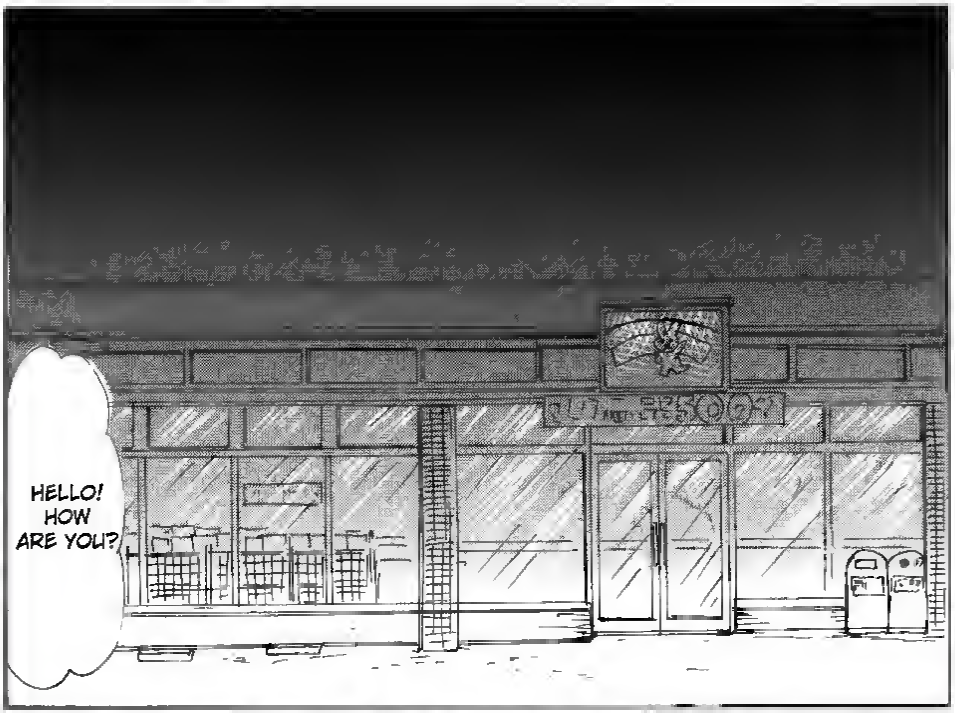
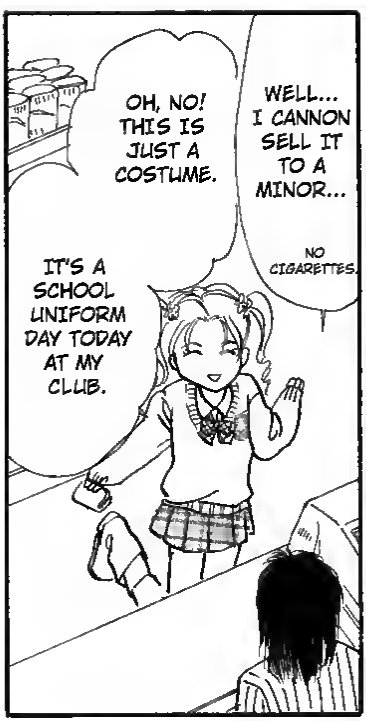
ドサッ
I HATE BRAWLS, BUT A CRIME IS A DIFFERENT STORY.

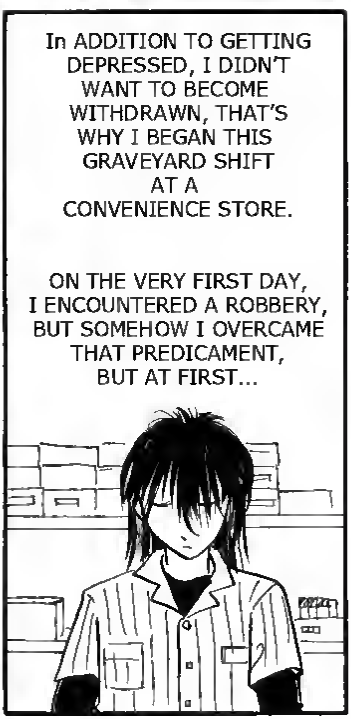
I DON'T THINK HE'LL GET HURT. AS FAR AS I REMEMBER, HE IS A KARATE RANK HOLDER.
I THOUGHT I SAW THAT IN HIS RESUME.
BEFORE YOU KNOW, HE MAY GET SEVERELY INJURED.
MAYBE, HE HASN'T BEEN DISCOURAGED, YET. HE MUST BE BREAKING UP A FIGHT.
HUH?
TAKU-SAN ISN'T HERE, YET?
YEAH, MAYBE, YOU ARE RIGHT.
IT MUST BE KNITTING OR SOMETHING.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
CANNOT BE!
FOR REAL?

Nogomi Club no 30


HELLO! HOW ARE YOU?


OH, NO! THIS IS JUST A COSTUME.
WELL... I CANNON SELL IT TO A MINOR...
NO CIGARETTES.
IT'S A SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY TODAY AT MY CLUB.

CAN I HAVE A VIRGINIA S?


In ADDITION TO GETTING DEPRESSED, I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME WITHDRAWN, THAT'S WHY I BEGAN THIS GRAVEYARD SHIFT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
ON THE VERY FIRST DAY, I ENCOUNTERED A ROBBERY, BUT SOMEHOW I OVERCAME THAT PREDICAMENT, BUT AT FIRST...

...
ドン
I'M.. I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THIS STORE LOCATED AT AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT HAS MANY STRANGE CUSTOMERS. IT'S HARD TO GET USED TO IT.
OH... I SEE.
WHY DOES A MAN BUY SANITARY NAPKINS? MAYBE, HIS GIRLFRIEND ASKED HIM? BUT, I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE WITH HEMORRHOIDS USE THEM, TOO.
T...THANK YOU.
SHE WORKS AT A GAY BAR.
HUH?
THAT PERSON IS A WOMAN.

HI THERE, TANAKA-KUN!
IT'S A BIT TOUGH FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE; THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THIS JOB.
ALRIGHT THEN, I'M TAKING OFF NOW.
O... OK.
OMG! HE'S HERE AGAIN!
WE...WELCOME TO THE STORE...
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A NEWBIE, BUT HE ALWAYS RUNS ERRANDS, THAT MEANS HE MAY NOT BE IN A HIGH RANK.
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. JUST WHENEVER HE COMES BY...
THIS PERSON HAPPENED TO BE AT THE STORE WHEN THE ROBBERY TOOK PLACE. HE COMES HERE VERY OFTEN.
PERHAPS, HE WORKS AT ONE OF THE CLUBS NEARBY.

WHY ARE YOU ORDERING ME?
"FOR ME"?
I'LL WATCH THE REGISTER FOR YOU, GO GET THE LADDER AND A NEW LIGHT BULB.
THE LIGHT BULB IS DEAD.
OH, LOOK!
YOU ARE, TOO, A CUSTOMER...
HURRY UP NOW BEFORE MORE CUSTOMERS COME.
HELLO! WELCOME TO THE STORE!
SEE YA LATER!
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GOT NEGATIVE ENERGY OR GOT POSSESSED BY SOME SPIRITS.
IF POSSIBLE, I DON'T WANT HIM TO COME BACK.
EVERY TIME HE COMES HERE, THERE'S SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
THE REGISTER STOPS WORKING, OR A CHINESE BUN WARMER WAS UNPLUGGED.

...
WELCOME TO OUR STORE. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO WARM UP YOUR MEAL?
MAYBE, HE QUIT HIS JOB, AFTER MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE?
ズーン
HE DIDN'T COME, AT ALL, LAST WEEK.
HURRY UP, SCUMBAG.
チッ!
DOES HIS SILENCE MEAN THERE IS NO NEED TO WARM IT UP?
WHAT DOES HE WANT ME TO DO?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. COME AGAIN...
I... I'M SORRY.

MAYBE, I SHOULD QUIT THIS JOB AND STAY HOME ALL THE TIME. REFUSING TO HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANYONE.

BUT, PROBABLY, THAT WILL BE HARD, TOO.

SUCH A TRIFLING THING AS THIS ONE DEEPLY HURTS ME AND BEATS ME UP.

PUSH

COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE JUST HURTS ME

GOOD WORK, TANAKA-KUN!!

ナデナデ

THINGS LIKE THIS MAKE ME CRY...

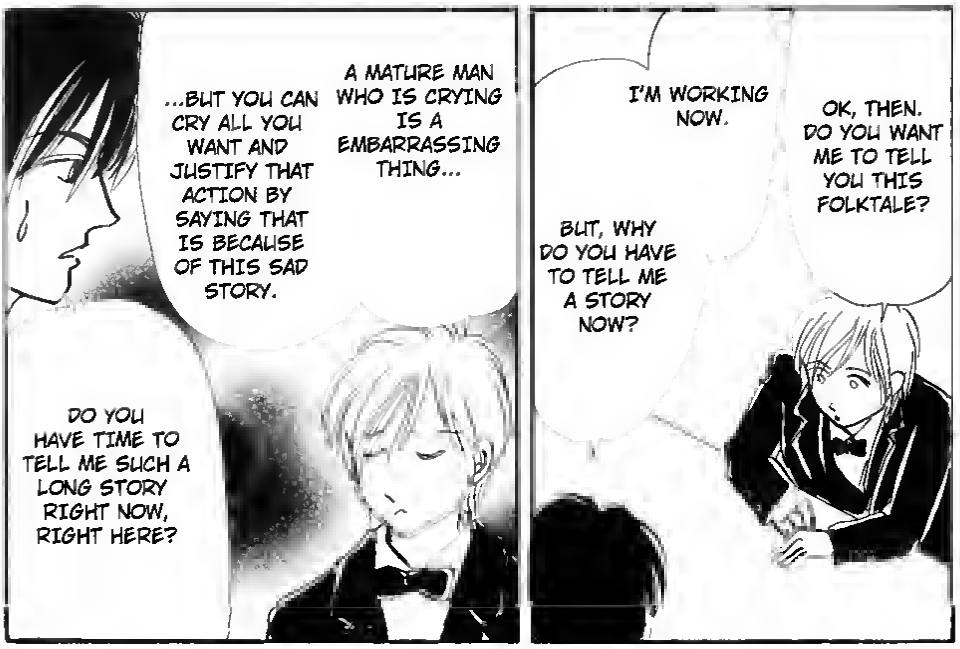
...MISERABLE. I BEGIN TO HATE MYSELF.

I DON'T GET THE LAST ONE...

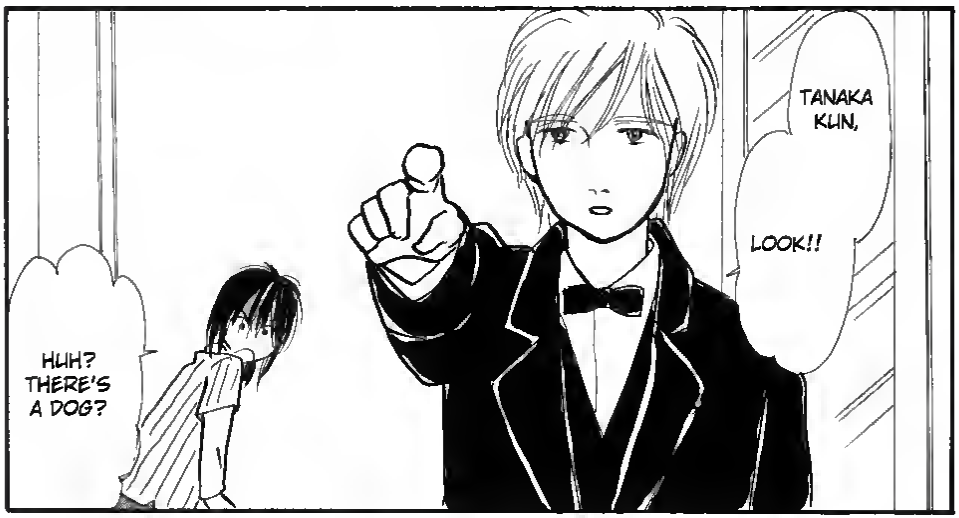
NOOO. WHEN I READ THIS FOLKTALE AND WHEN I CROSS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND HE ENDS UP CHOKING ME, THOSE ARE THE TIMES WHEN I CRY.

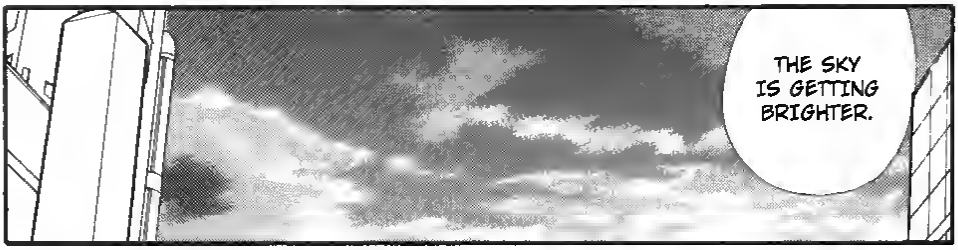
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON WHY SOMEONE CRIES?

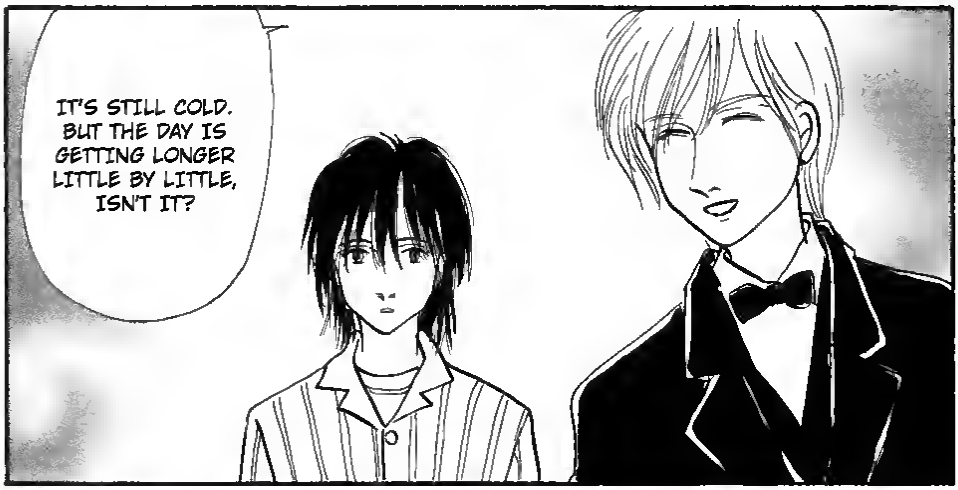
HUH? WHAT'S UP? YOU'VE BEEN CRYING. DID YOU GET BITTEN BY A DOG?


A MATURE MAN WHO IS CRYING IS A EMBARRASSING THING...
...BUT YOU CAN CRY ALL YOU WANT AND JUSTIFY THAT ACTION BY SAYING THAT IS BECAUSE OF THIS SAD STORY.
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO TELL ME SUCH A LONG STORY RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE?
I'M WORKING NOW.
OK, THEN. DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU THIS FOLKTALE?
BUT, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TELL ME A STORY NOW?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
TANAKA-KUN, WATCH OUT FOR A DOG.
SHOOT! I GOTTA GO BACK TO MY CLUB!

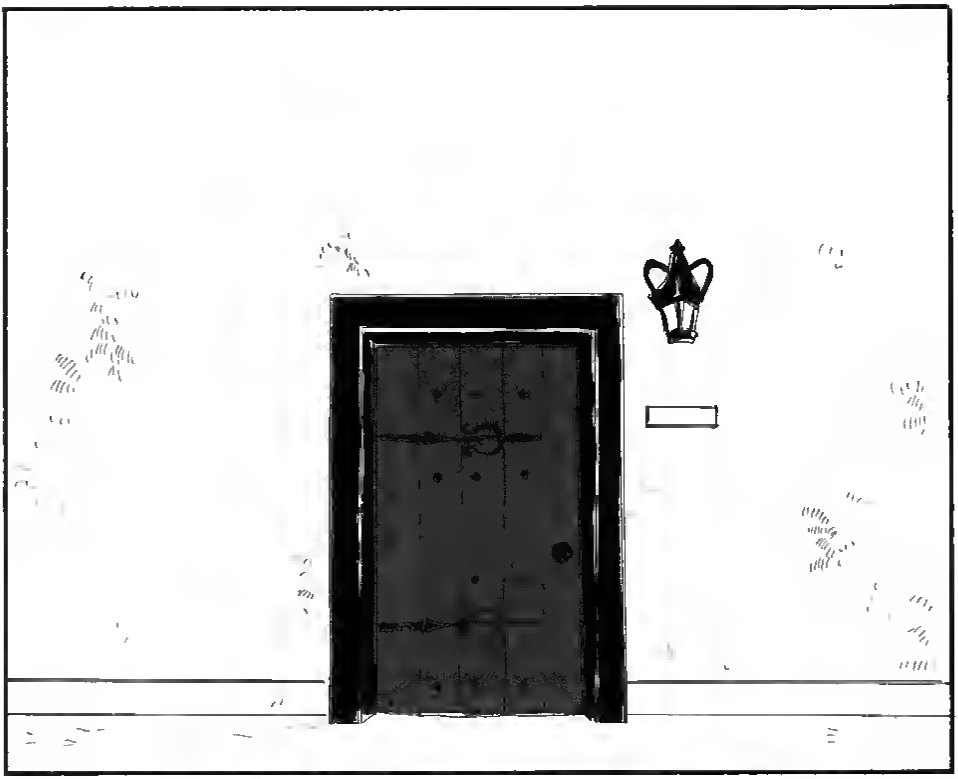

TANAKA KUN,
LOOK!!
HUH? THERE'S A DOG?

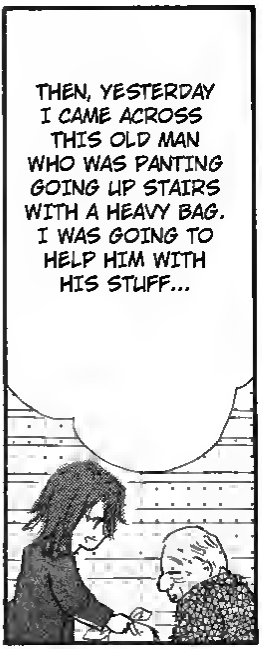

THE SKY IS GETTING BRIGHTER.


IT'S STILL COLD. BUT THE DAY IS GETTING LONGER LITTLE BY LITTLE, ISN'T IT?

...
PEOPLE AT YOU WORK WILL GET MAD IF YOU ARE OUT HERE UNTIL THIS TIME, RIGHT?
OMG! YES!

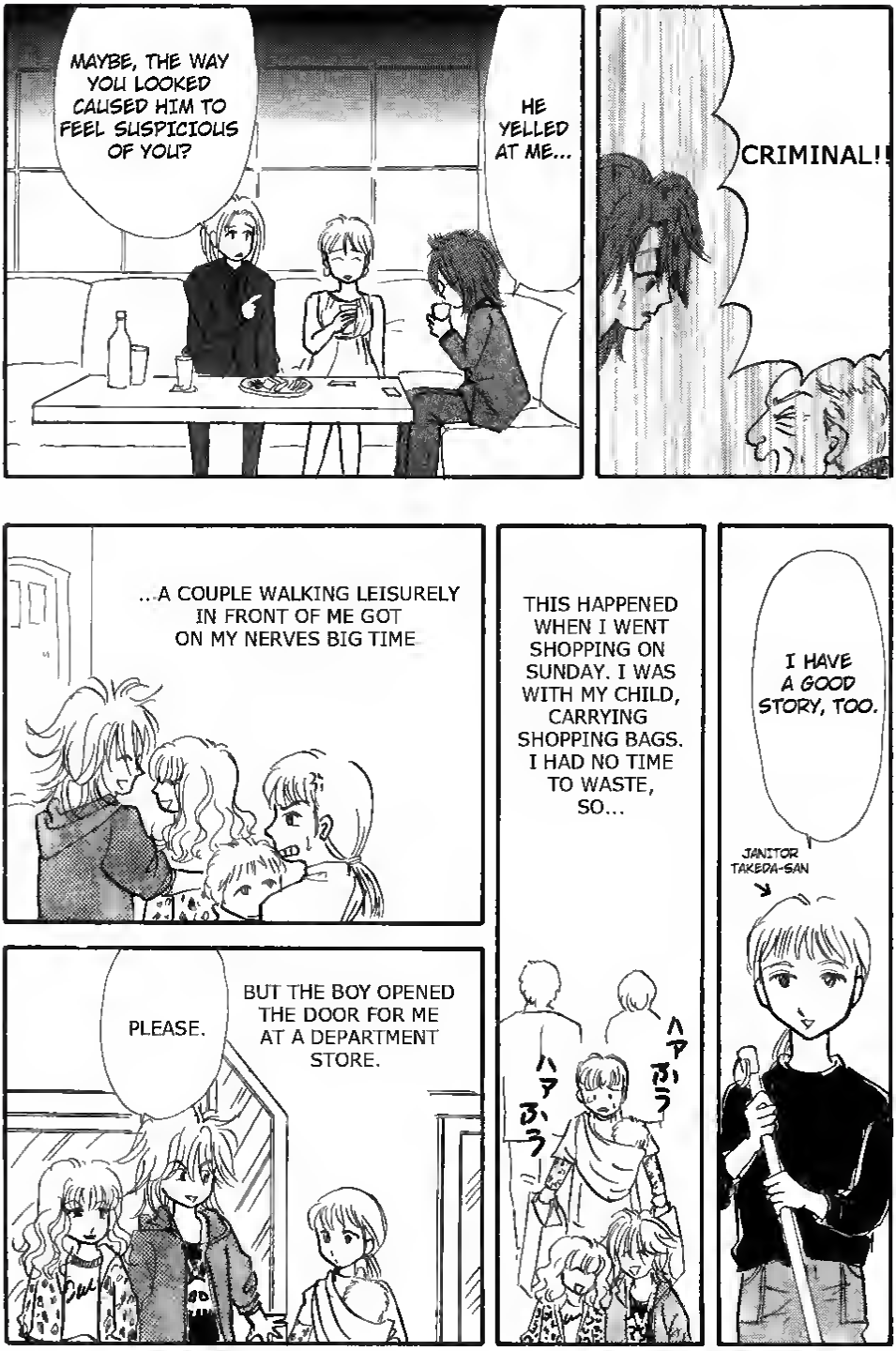
Nagomi Club no.31




THEN, YESTERDAY I CAME ACROSS THIS OLD MAN WHO WAS PANTING GOING UP STAIRS WITH A HEAVY BAG. I WAS GOING TO HELP HIM WITH HIS STUFF...

...A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL HELPED THIS OLD LADY AT THE STAIRS OF A TRAIN STATION, CARRYING THE LADY'S LUGGAGE AND LEADING HER WAY.

THERE WAS A COLUMN SERIES CALLED "HEART-WARMING STORY" IN THIS MAGAZINE...


MAYBE, THE WAY YOU LOOKED CAUSED HIM TO FEEL SUSPICIOUS OF YOU?
HE YELLED AT ME...
CRIMINAL!!
...A COUPLE WALKING LEISURELY IN FRONT OF ME GOT ON MY NERVES BIG TIME
THIS HAPPENED WHEN I WENT SHOPPING ON SUNDAY. I WAS WITH MY CHILD, CARRYING SHOPPING BAGS. I HAD NO TIME TO WASTE, SO...
I HAVE A GOOD STORY, TOO.
JANITOR TAKEDA-SAN
PLEASE.
BUT THE BOY OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME AT A DEPARTMENT STORE.
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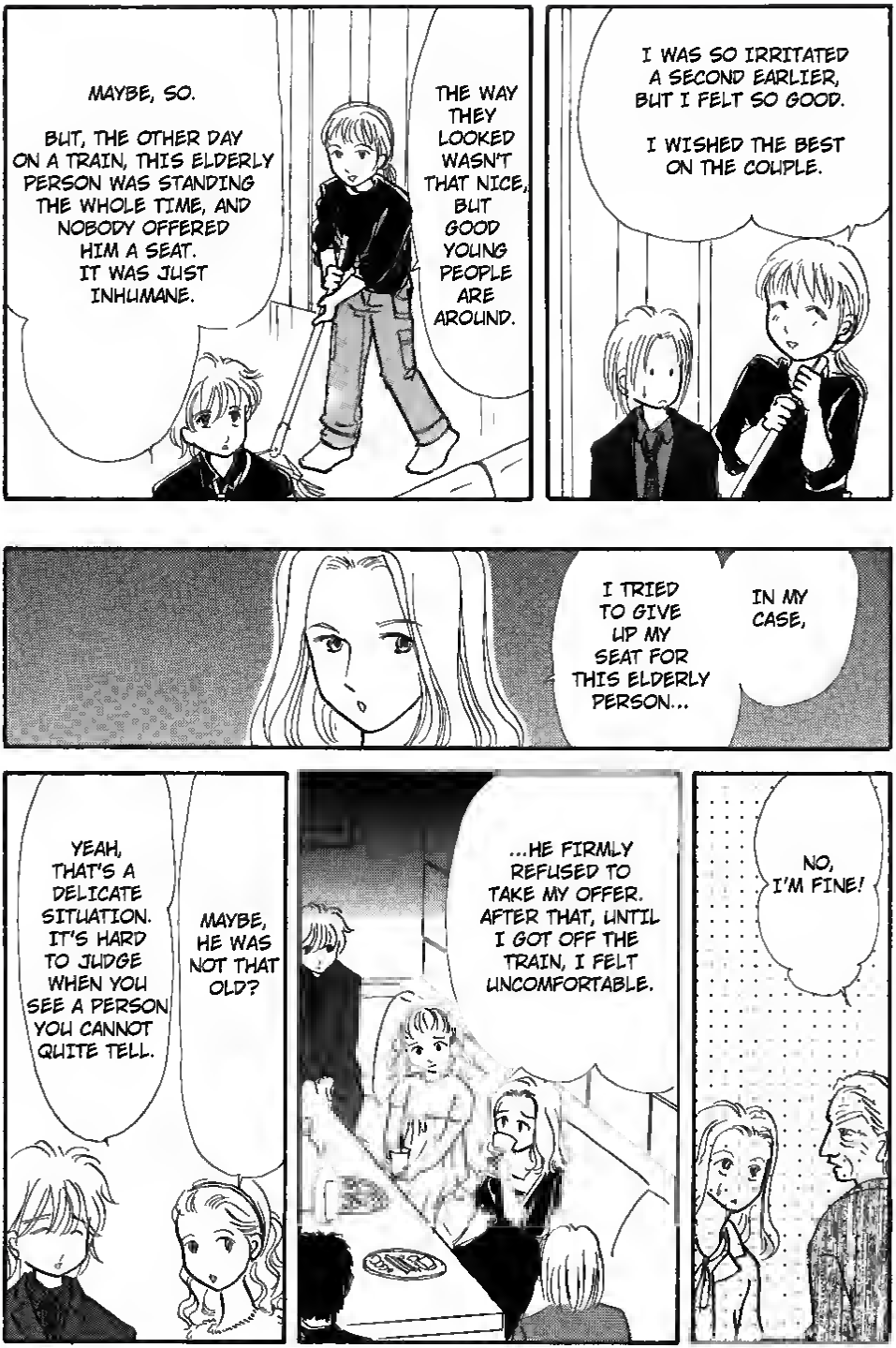
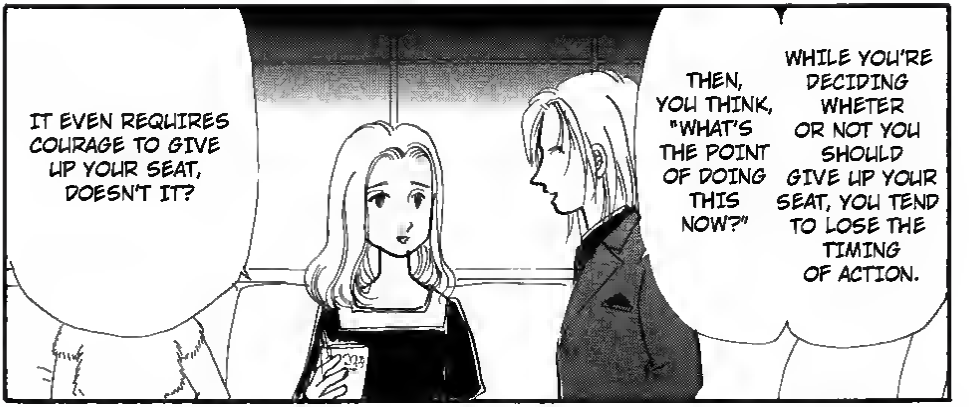
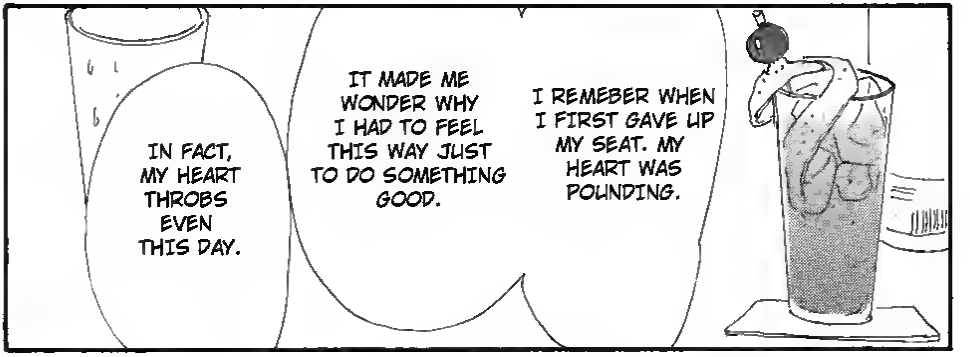
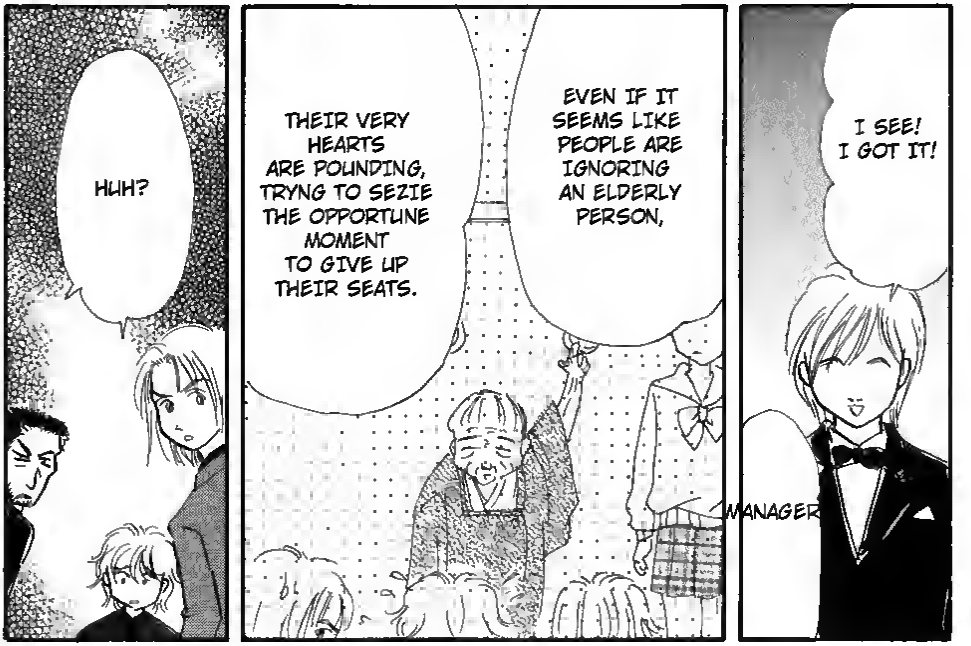
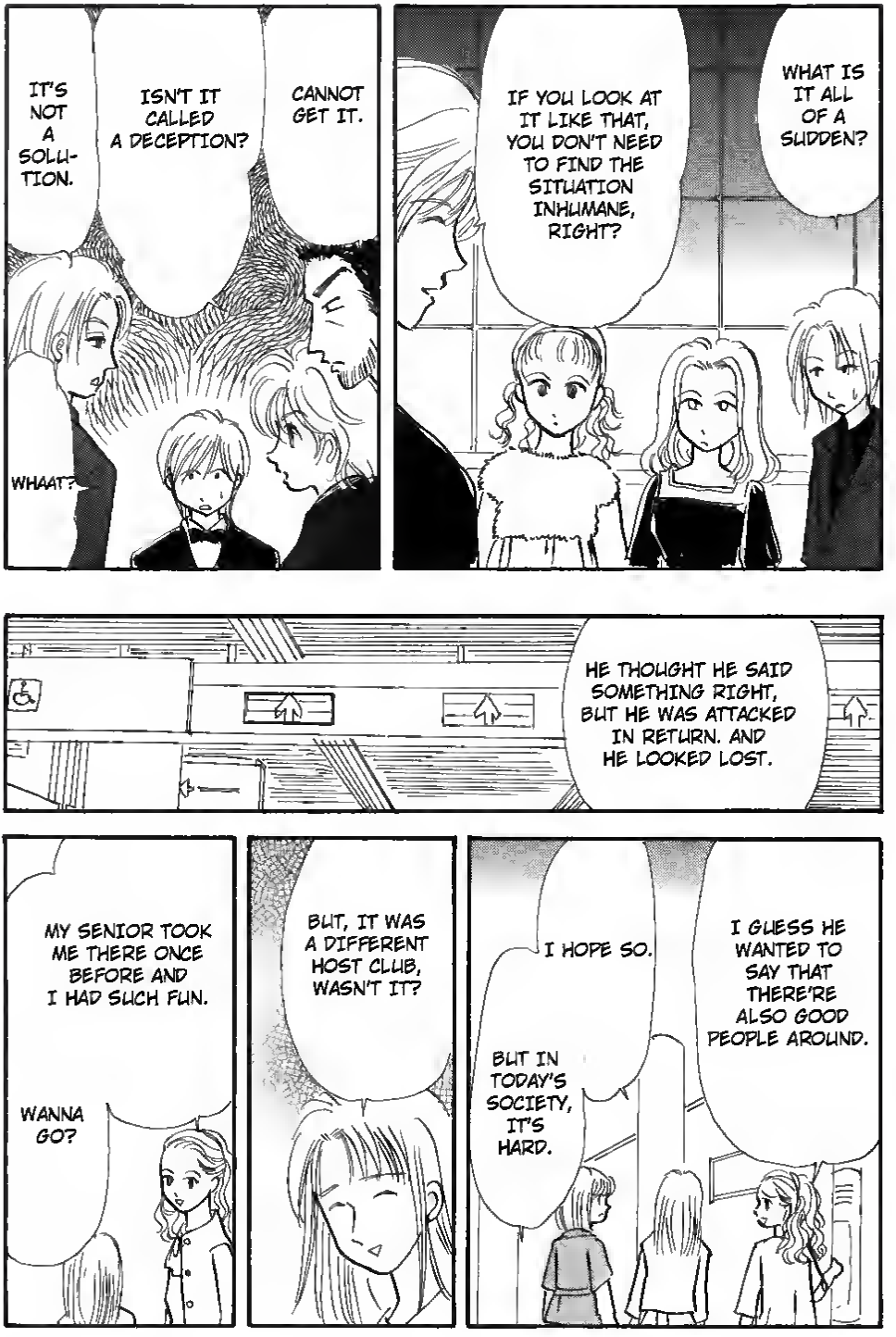
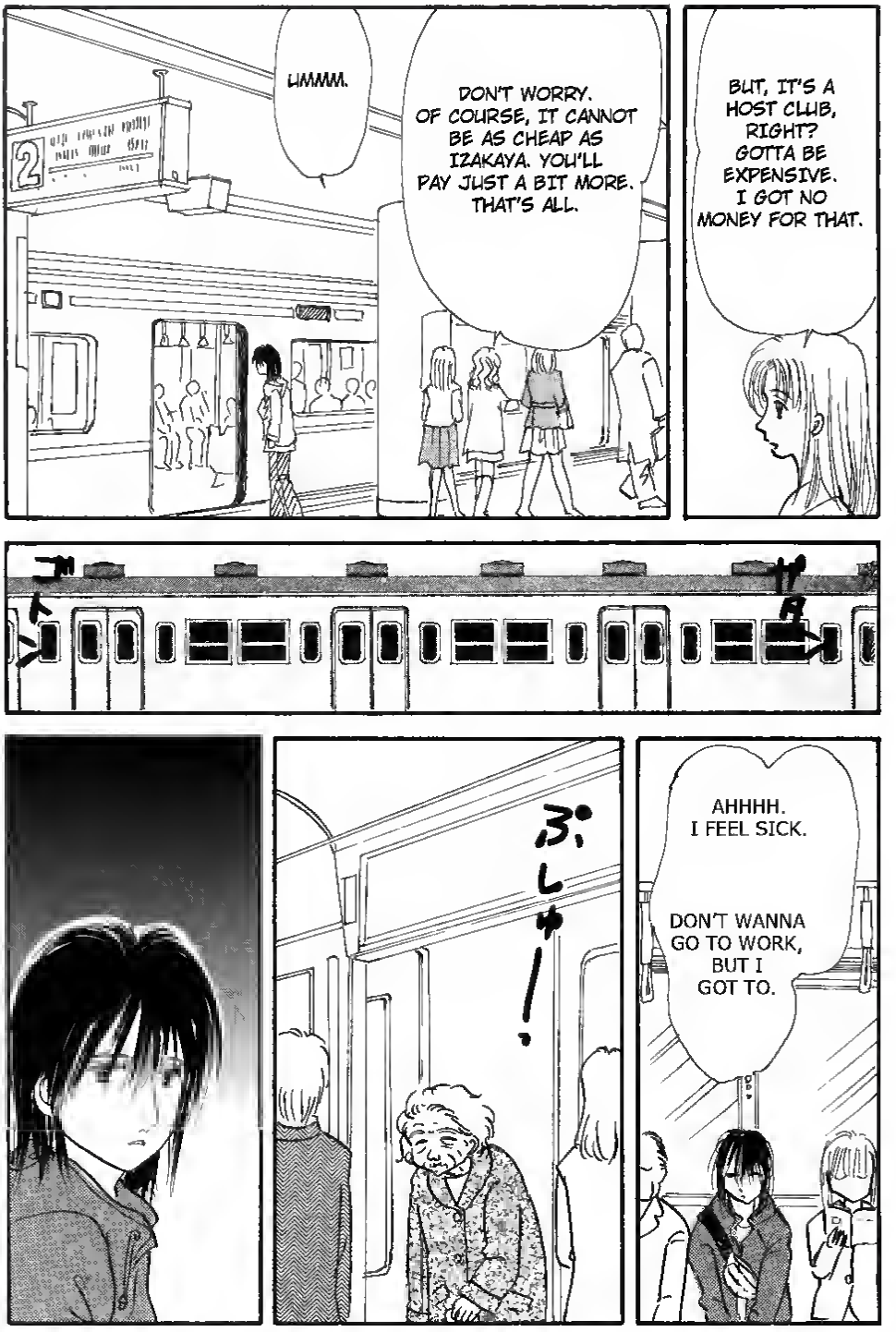

MAYBE, SO.
BUT, THE OTHER DAY ON A TRAIN, THIS ELDERLY PERSON WAS STANDING THE WHOLE TIME, AND NOBODY OFFERED HIM A SEAT. IT WAS JUST INHUMANE.
THE WAY THEY LOOKED WASN'T THAT NICE, BUT GOOD YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AROUND.
I WAS SO IRRITATED A SECOND EARLIER, BUT I FELT SO GOOD.
I WISHED THE BEST ON THE COUPLE.
IN MY CASE,
I TRIED TO GIVE UP MY SEAT FOR THIS ELDERLY PERSON...
YEAH, THAT'S A DELICATE SITUATION. IT'S HARD TO JUDGE WHEN YOU SEE A PERSON YOU CANNOT QUITE TELL.
MAYBE, HE WAS NOT THAT OLD?
...HE FIRMLY REFUSED TO TAKE MY OFFER. AFTER THAT, UNTIL I GOT OFF THE TRAIN, I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE.
NO, I'M FINE!

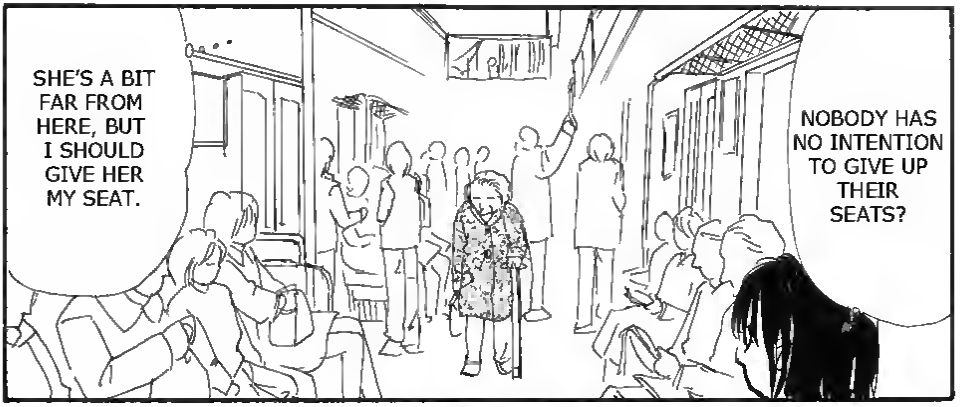

IT EVEN REQUIRES COURAGE TO GIVE UP YOUR SEAT, DOESN'T IT?
THEN, YOU THINK, "WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING THIS NOW?"
WHILE YOU'RE DECIDING WHETER OR NOT YOU SHOULD GIVE UP YOUR SEAT, YOU TEND TO LOSE THE TIMING OF ACTION.


IN FACT, MY HEART THROBS EVEN THIS DAY.
IT MADE ME WONDER WHY I HAD TO FEEL THIS WAY JUST TO DO SOMETHING GOOD.
I REMEBER WHEN I FIRST GAVE UP MY SEAT. MY HEART WAS POUNDING.

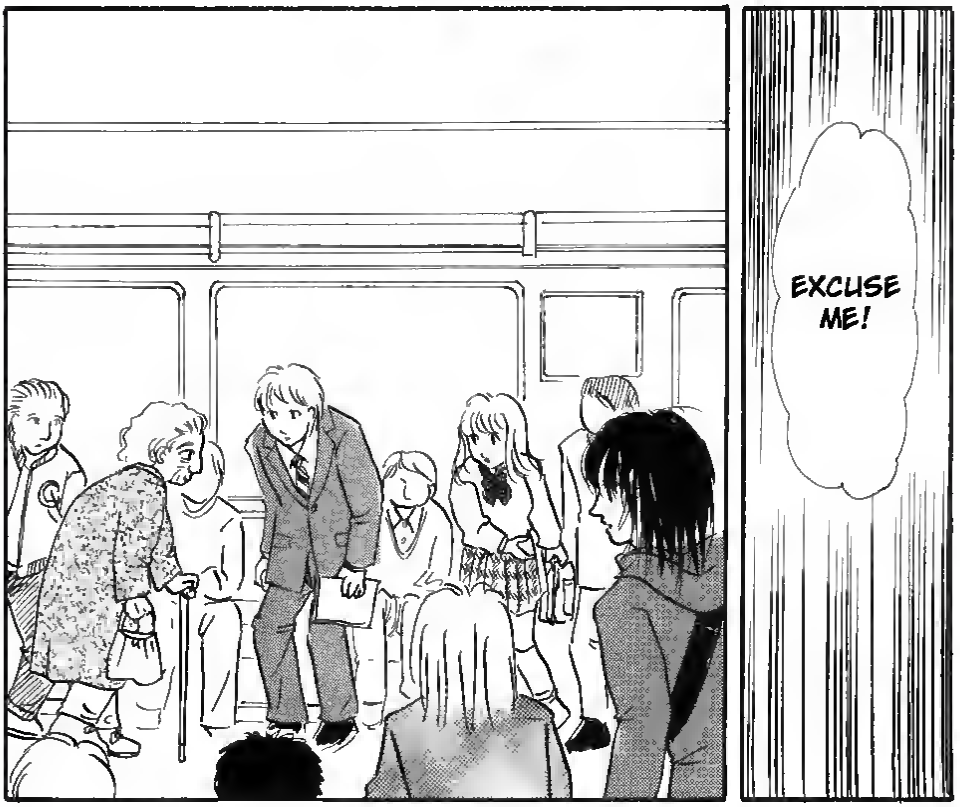

HUH?
THEIR VERY HEARTS ARE POUNDING, TRYNG TO SEZIE THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO GIVE UP THEIR SEATS.
EVEN IF IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE ARE IGNORING AN ELDERLY PERSON,
I SEE! I GOT IT!
MANAGER

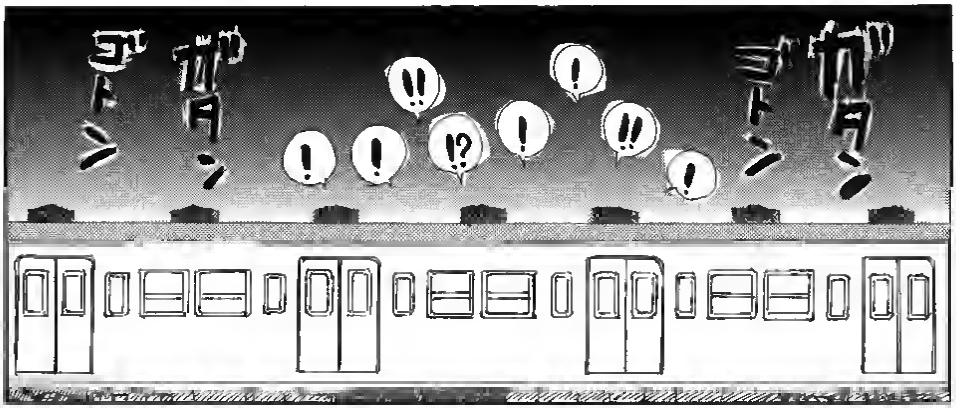

IT'S NOT A SOLU-TION.
ISN'T IT CALLED A DECEPTION?
CANNOT GET IT.
WHAAT?
IF YOU LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT, YOU DON'T NEED TO FIND THE SITUATION INHUMANE, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HE THOUGHT HE SAID SOMETHING RIGHT, BUT HE WAS ATTACKED IN RETURN. AND HE LOOKED LOST.
MY SENIOR TOOK ME THERE ONCE BEFORE AND I HAD SUCH FUN.
WANNA GO?
BUT, IT WAS A DIFFERENT HOST CLUB, WASN'T IT?
I HOPE SO.
BUT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, IT'S HARD.
I GUESS HE WANTED TO SAY THAT THERE'RE ALSO GOOD PEOPLE AROUND.


UMMM.
DON'T WORRY. OF COURSE, IT CANNOT BE AS CHEAP AS IZAKAYA. YOU'LL PAY JUST A BIT MORE. THAT'S ALL.
BUT, IT'S A HOST CLUB, RIGHT? GOTTA BE EXPENSIVE. I GOT NO MONEY FOR THAT.
ジリリリリ
AHHHH. I FEEL SICK.
DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK, BUT I GOT TO.


SHE'S A BIT FAR FROM HERE, BUT I SHOULD GIVE HER MY SEAT.
NOBODY HAS NO INTENTION TO GIVE UP THEIR SEATS?

UMMM... UMMMM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...


EXCUSE ME!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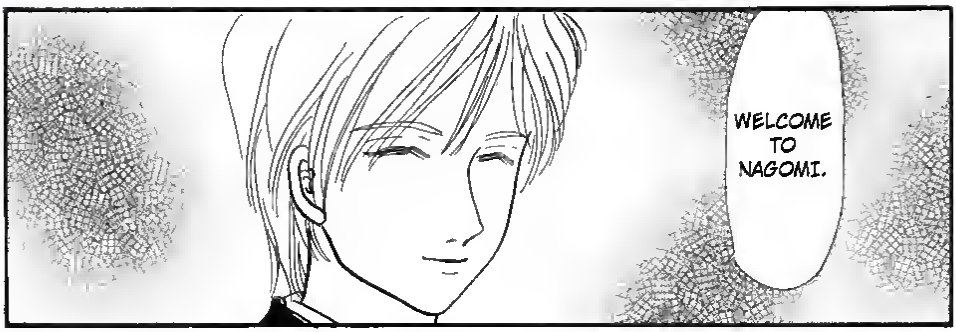
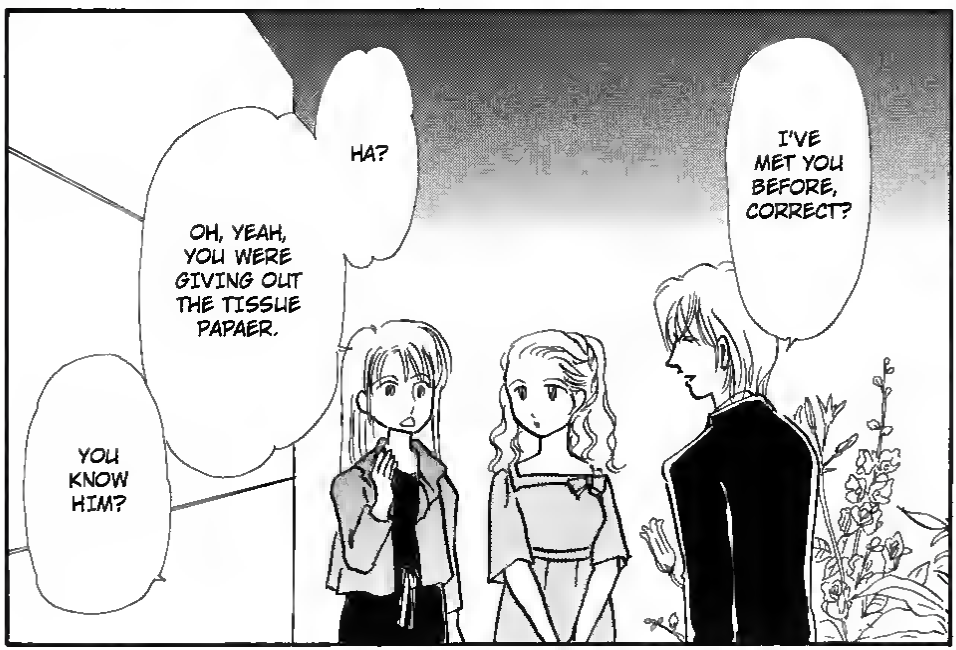

WELCOME TO NAGOMI.


I'VE MET YOU BEFORE, CORRECT?
HA?
OH, YEAH, YOU WERE GIVING OUT THE TISSUE PAPAER.
YOU KNOW HIM?

Nagomi Club no 32

CHERRY BLOSSOMS I SAW ON MY WAY TO WORK WERE SO BEAUTIFUL.
LET'S GO AND HAVE A CHERRY BLOSSOM PARTY ON OUR REGULAR DAY-OFF THIS WEEK, SHALL WE?
THE CHERRY TREES AT THE AOBA PARK ARE AT THEIR PEAK, I HEARD.
CERTAINLY, THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS THERE ARE NICE WITH THE LIGHTS. IF WE DON'T PLAN AHEAD AND TAKE OUR SPACE, EVEN A SPOT IN FRONT OF A BATHROOM WON'T BE AVAILABLE.

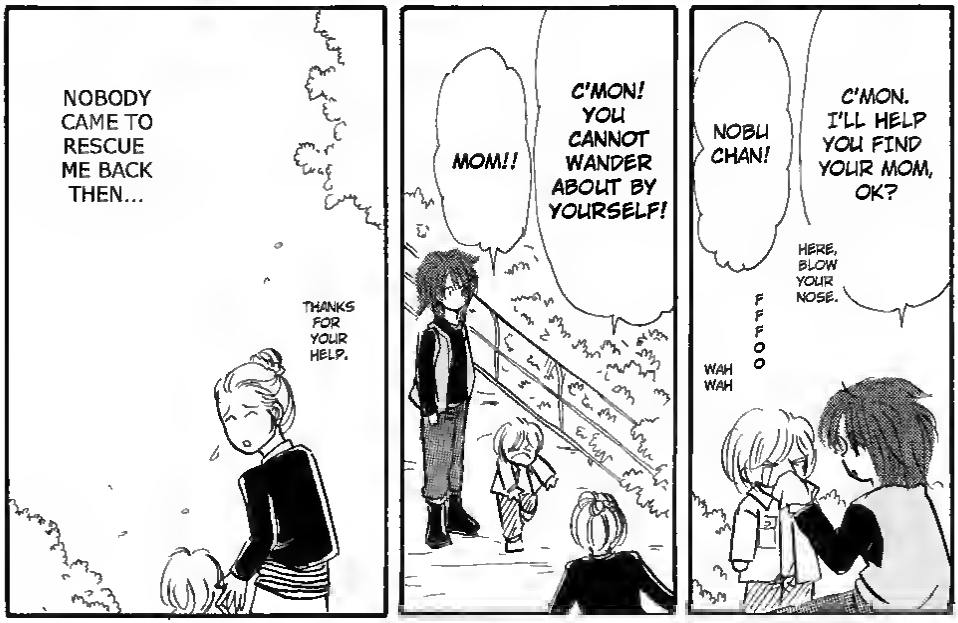
UMMM. I DON'T THINK I CAN...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST ONE!
THEN, IT'LL BE EASY.
DON'T WORRY!
PEOPLE AT A TRANSVESTITE BAR, FUJITSUBO, WILL HAVE A PARTY THERE DURING THE DAY, SO WE'LL JUST TAKE OVER THEIR SPOT.
THAT'LL SAVE US TROUBLE!!
IF YOU CAN CLEAN UP AFTER WE LEAVE...
...UMM, MY SIS IS...
WELL...
WHAT'S GOING ON YUYA? GOT STUFF TO DO?
THEY GOT SUPER DRUNK AND THEY TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT ME, AND LEFT WITHOUT ME...
WHEN I WAS FIVE OR SO, I WENT TO SEE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WITH MY FOLKS.
I HAVE A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE...
WHEN DID YOU START EXCHANGING TEXTS WITH MY SIS?
AND SHE'LL HAVE A RECITAL TOMORROW, SO, SHE'S VERY NERVOUS
YUKA-CHAN WILL HAVE A SLUMBER PARTY ON THAT DAY. THAT'S WHAT HER TEXT MESSAGE SAYS.

BUT, ON MY WAY HOME I GOT RAINED ON AND TRIPPED AND GOT SUPER DIRTY. I FELT SO MISERABLE. WHENEVER I HEAR A CHERRY BLOSSOM PARTY, THAT BRINGS BACK A BAD MEMORY...
NOW, I CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT.
I FOUND MY WAY HOME ON MY OWN, CRYING...
WAHH!!
MOM!!
WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
YES!
OK, ALL OF US WILL BE THERE. LET'S GET TOGETHER AT SIX PM AT THE WEST GATE OF THE PARK!
AM I THE ONLY ONE TO BE HERE ON TIME?
THEY'RE LATE!

MOM!!
MOM! MOOOM!
MOM!!
WHERE ARE YOU?
MAYBE, I SHOULD GO HOME...
I'M HOME.

...MY FOLKS DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL THE MORNING. THEY WERE BAR HOPPING ALL NIGHT.
THOUGH I CAME HOME, CRYING ALL THE WAY...

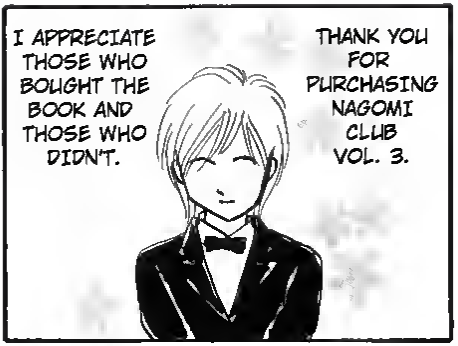
MOM!!
はっ

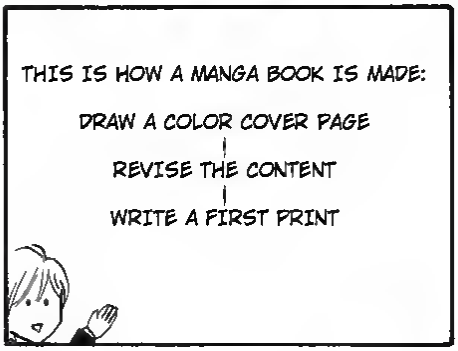

NOBODY CAME TO RESCUE ME BACK THEN...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
MOM!!
C'MON! YOU CANNOT WANDER ABOUT BY YOURSELF!
NOBU CHAN!
C'MON. I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR MOM, OK?
HERE, BLOW YOUR NOSE.
FFFOO
WAH WAH

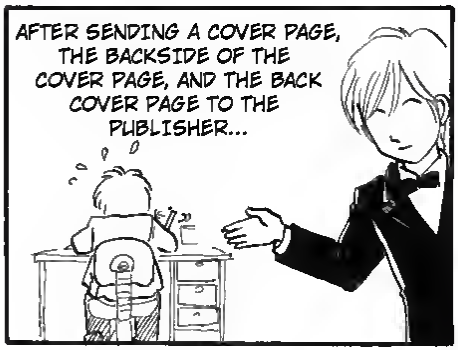
I SHOULD GO HOME.
OH, YUYA! HE'S HERE AS WE IMAGINED.
NOBODY COMES LOOKING FOR ME...
THERE'RE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND ME.
BUT, I'M ALL ALONE.

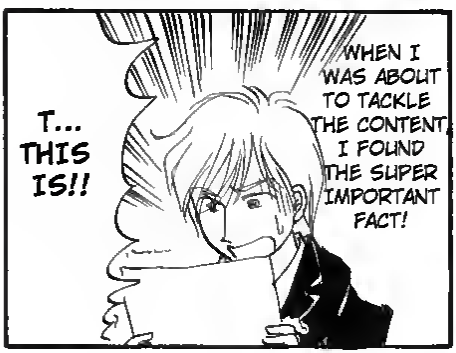
WE GOTTA GO NOW. FUJITSUBO PEOPLE ARE WAITING!
BEFORE I SHOWED OFF MY PERFORMANCE UNDER THE CHERRY TREES, I GOT SWEATY.
THANKS TO YOU, WE WALKED ACROSS THE PARK...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WE SAID THE WEST GATE! THIS IS THE EAST GATE!
SHOOT!
...YOU COULD HAVE CALLED ME ON MY CELL, INSTEAD OF ALL OF YOU COMING OUT HERE...
YOU KNOW..
YOU ALL HAD THE EXPRESSION OF "SHOOT!," DIDN'T YOU?
SO, ALL OF YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT CALLING ME?
SERIOUSLY?
WE WANTED TO SEE ALL THE CHERRY TREES!!
THAT'S NOT IT. WE JUST WANTED TO APPRECIATE THE CHEERY BLOSSOMS TOGETHER; THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY, YOU KNOW.
YOU DON'T WANT TO UPSET PEOPLE FROM FUJITSUBO. THEY'RE SCARY!
C'MON, LET'S GET TO OUR SPOT!

IN A LONG WHILE, PEOPLE WILL COME LOOKING FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.
C'MON!
YUYA!
WAIT FOR ME!!

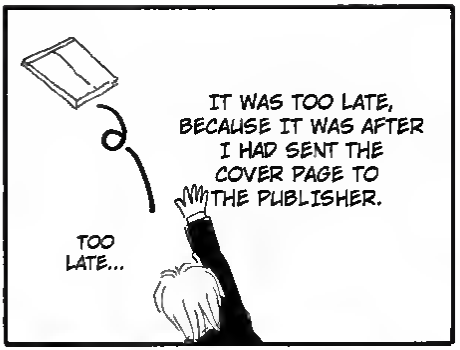

I APPRECIATE THOSE WHO BOUGHT THE BOOK AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T.
THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING NAGOMI CLUB VOL. 3.

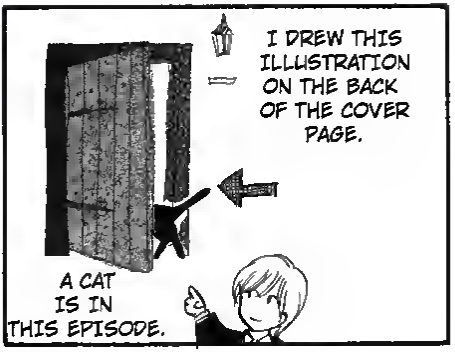

THIS IS HOW A MANGA BOOK IS MADE:
DRAW A COLOR COVER PAGE
REVISE THE CONTENT
WRITE A FIRST PRINT

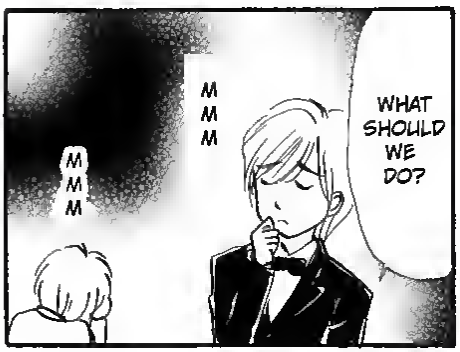

AFTER SENDING A COVER PAGE, THE BACKSIDE OF THE COVER PAGE, AND THE BACK COVER PAGE TO THE PUBLISHER...

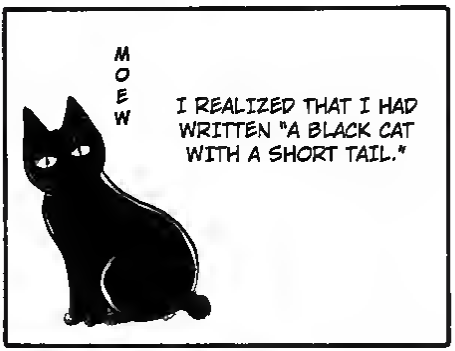

T... THIS IS!!
WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO TACKLE THE CONTENT, I FOUND THE SUPER IMPORTANT FACT!

NAGOMI CLUB BACKSTAGE

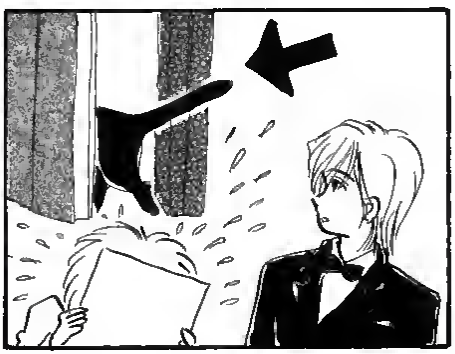

IT WAS TOO LATE, BECAUSE IT WAS AFTER I HAD SENT THE COVER PAGE TO THE PUBLISHER.
TOO LATE...

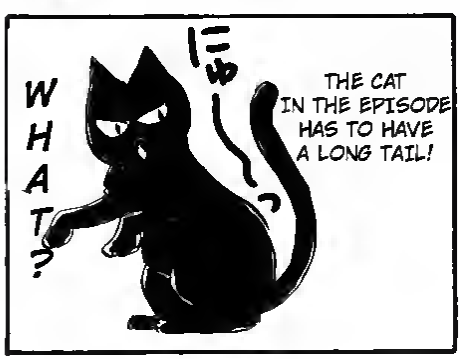

I DREW THIS ILLUSTRATION ON THE BACK OF THE COVER PAGE.
A CAT IS IN THIS EPISODE.

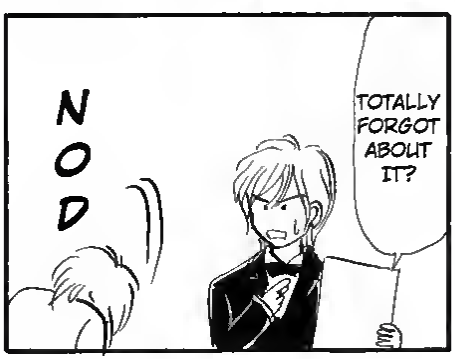

MMM
MMM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

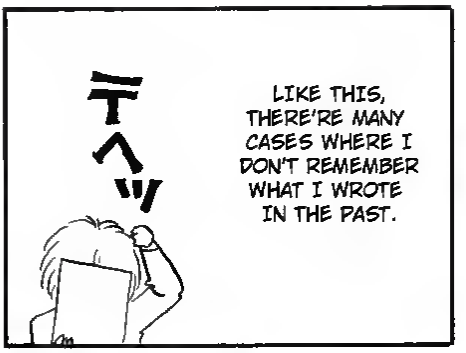

MOEW
I REALIZED THAT I HAD WRITTEN "A BLACK CAT WITH A SHORT TAIL."

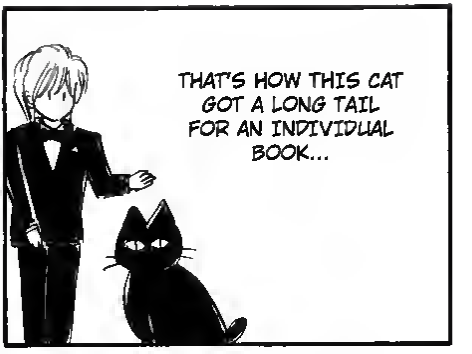
スカ
OK, THEN...

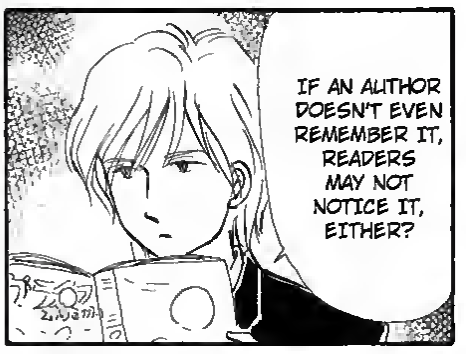


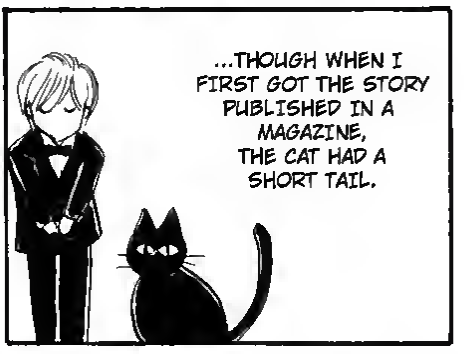

WHAT?
ニョロ～ン
THE CAT IN THE EPISODE HAS TO HAVE A LONG TAIL!

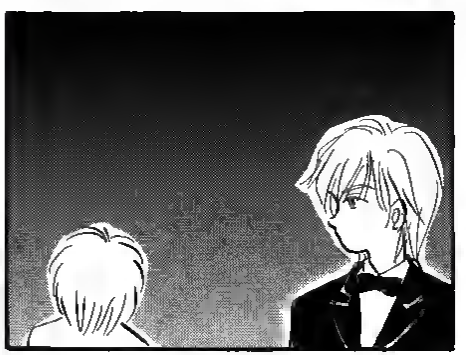

NOD
TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT?


LIKE THIS, THERE'RE MANY CASES WHERE I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I WROTE IN THE PAST.


THAT'S HOW THIS CAT GOT A LONG TAIL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL BOOK...

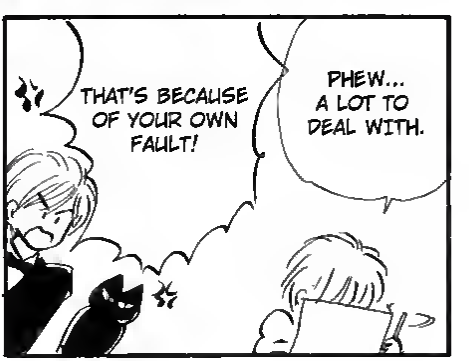

IF AN AUTHOR DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER IT, READERS MAY NOT NOTICE IT, EITHER?


...THOUGH WHEN I FIRST GOT THE STORY PUBLISHED IN A MAGAZINE, THE CAT HAD A SHORT TAIL.



BUT I NEEDED TO ADD SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE CAT, SO I GAVE IT A JAGGED EAR.

THAT'S NOT THE CORE OF THE ISSUE!!
I SHOULD HAVE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT!!


THAT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN FAULT!
PHEW... A LOT TO DEAL WITH.

初出

なごみクラブ――「月刊まんがライフオリジナル」2010年3月号～4月号・6月号～8月号・10月号～12月号、2011年2月号～4月号、描き下ろし

BAMBOO COMICS

なごみクラブ

Nagomi club

3

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